

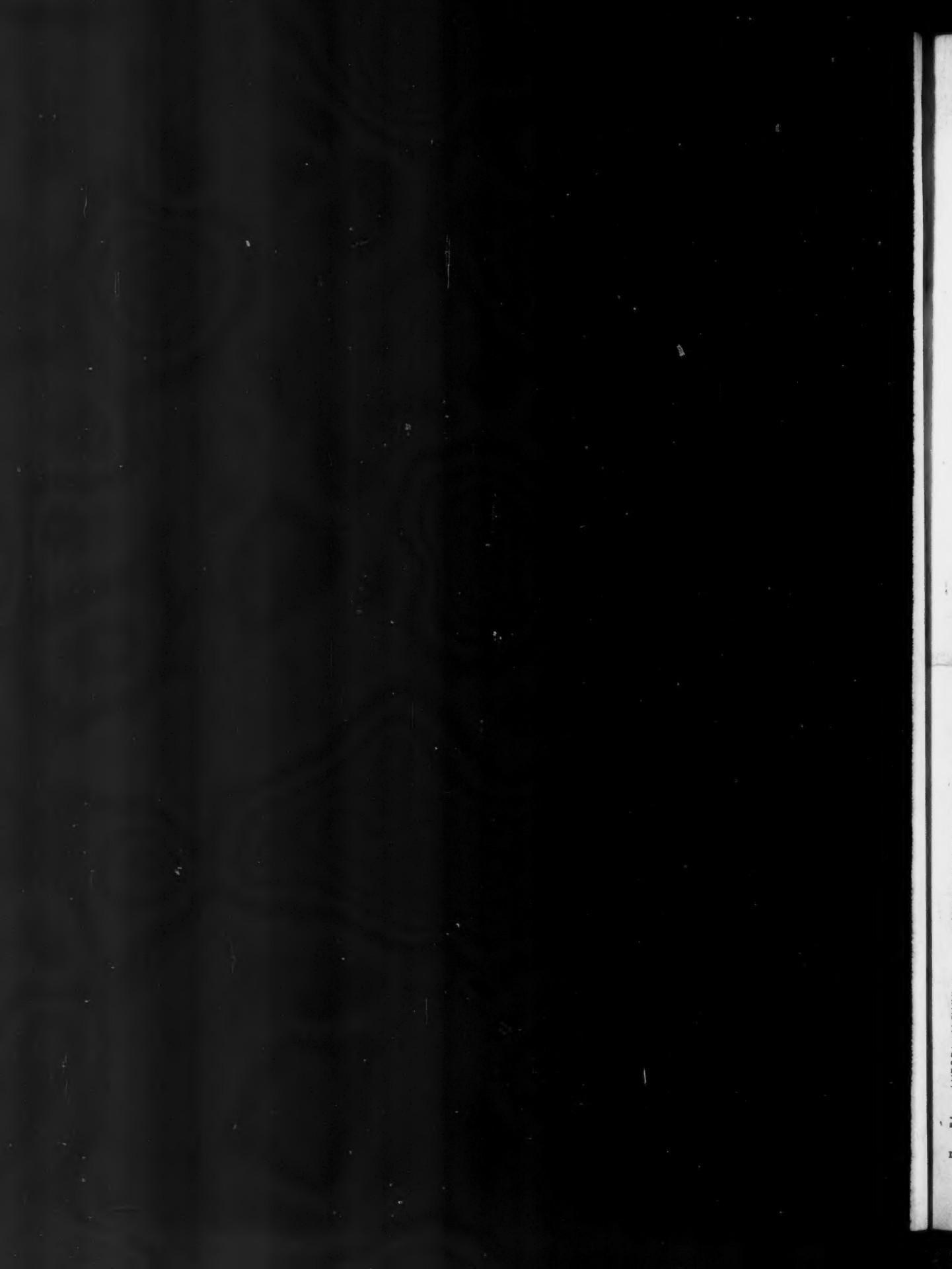
THE
LITERARY GAZETTE
AND
JOURNAL
OF
Archæology, Science, and Art,
FOR THE YEAR
1856.



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M D C C C L V I .



THE LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

N° 2033.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1856.

Price Fourpence.
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NOTICE.—On the first Saturday in March the 'Literary Gazette' will be enlarged to 24 pages, with the view of presenting some new features, under new editorial management.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS.—C. R. COCKERELL, Esq., R.A., Professor of Architecture, will deliver Lectures on the evenings of Thursday, Jan. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, and Feb. 7th.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Secretary.

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The First Session of 1856 will commence on the 24th of January.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION will OPEN to the Public on MONDAY NEXT, January 7th, at the Gallery of the Society of Painters in Water-Colours, 5, Pall Mall East. Open at Ten. Admission 1s.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—SPECIAL JUVENILE morning and evening. Third GRATUITOUS DISTRIBUTION of the ORNAMENTS of the GIANT CHRISTMAS TREE, on Wednesday, January 9th, at 1 and 7. Great amusements will be provided for Juveniles. Doors open at 12, and past six. Admission is.

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Brief Notices of New Books—Review of the Month, &c.

London: Ward and Co., Paternoster Row.

On the 1st of January was published, price 3s. 6d., No. XV. of THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN EVANGELICAL REVIEW.

CONTENTS:

1. Sir William Hamilton and his Philosophy.
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VOLUME XIV. may be had in boards, as well as the preceding volumes, price 12s. 6d. each.

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Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black. London: Longman and Co.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1856.

REVIEWS.

The Almanack of Science and Art. Anno Domini 1856. Chapman and Hall.

THE year 1856, notwithstanding the calamities of war, opens full of promise for the advancement of science and art. The appearance of a new and very elaborate official Almanack, in which the history and progress of our numerous scientific and art institutions are brought together for the first time in combined detail, gives token that some activity prevails in quarters competent to benefit the public service. New and valuable institutions, it will be seen, have sprung up and are comprehensively at work, and those of earlier origin and more antiquated management are beginning to be reformed. On rising from the perusal of this very useful and valuable record, the first impression of the reader will probably be one of astonishment at the comparatively recent origin of all our scientific and art institutions, and at the comparatively barbarous ignorance of Englishmen in all matters pertaining to science and art up to recent times. Literature had its Augustan era in this country more than two centuries ago, but it is only now that the sciences and the arts may be said to be commencing to flourish. It was not until the purchase of Sir Hans Sloane's library and productions of nature and art, in 1755, long after the establishment of public collections in all the principal continental cities of Europe, that England possessed even the nucleus of a national library and museum; it was not until the purchase, in 1823, of Mr. Angerstein's collection of paintings that England possessed any sort of foundation for a National Gallery; it was not until the royal parterres of Kew were submitted, in 1838, at the recommendation of a committee of inquiry, to scientific culture, that England possessed a public botanic garden; it was not until an enthusiastic geologist of Cornwall made use of the Government trigonometrical maps for tabulating in different colours his researches, that a national geological survey was commenced, leading to the establishment, in 1850, of a Metropolitan School of Science applied to Mining and the Arts; and it was not until the great and glorious Exhibition of All Nations, in 1851, that England conceived the idea of promoting the advancement of Science and Art in an official and authoritative form by the appointment of a permanent Royal Commission. It may seem strange that the world, with its shrewd and busy peoples, should have existed nearly six thousand years, and that it is only within the last few years that the practical properties of some of its most common elements have been discovered, the use of steam, electricity, &c., but the spirit of science, physical as well as natural, and the spirit of art in its application to the improvement of manufactures, &c., are rising alike into material value and importance, and both promise richly to enhance the blessings of national refinement.

The British Museum, of all our scientific institutions, is that in which a reform of its constitution is most urgently needed, and there is little doubt but that the change which has been forced by public opinion upon the management of the National Gallery, will, ere long, be forced upon this. The governing body of the British Museum, as

we have before had occasion to notice, consists of a homogeneous assemblage of no less than forty-six trustees, including, *ex officio*, such officers as the Master of the Rolls, the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General for the time being, no matter what their qualifications may be, and the general management of the institution, which contains enormous riches in science and art, is very unsatisfactory:—

"The British Museum owes its foundation to Sir Hans Sloane, a native of Ireland, but who, having settled in London, became distinguished as a physician and naturalist. He collected during a long life a valuable museum of the choicest productions of nature and art, besides a library consisting of above 50,000 volumes and about 3500 rare MSS., which in 1755, by an Act of Parliament of 26 George II., were purchased for the benefit of the nation. George I. created him a baronet, and the Royal Society, in 1721, elected him their president. The Harleian MSS. were also purchased under the same Act; and the library of Sir Robert Bruce Cotton, which had been given to the Government for public use in the reign of William III., and lodged in Dean's Yard, Westminster, was also added to it. Sir Robert Cotton was a distinguished antiquarian, who, in 1629, was brought before the privy council and suffered imprisonment in the Tower for writing an offensive political pamphlet, which, in a moment of thoughtlessness, was lent to a friend, without his knowledge, by his librarian. Henry VIII. founded a royal library out of the spoils of the various suppressed monasteries, which had been enlarged by his successors, and this was also presented to the national collection by George II. George III., in 1763, gave a valuable collection of pamphlets on the Civil Wars; and between the years 1806 and 1818 the Lansdowne, Hargrave, and Burney MSS. were purchased at an expense of 26,400*l.* George IV. also presented to the Museum the library his father had collected at an expense of 200,000*l.* Presents are being constantly made, and the additions under the Copyright Act are so numerous that space can scarcely be found for the books, nor time to make a catalogue.

"Mr. Charles Townley, a Lancashire gentleman, of ancient family, who had long resided at Rome, had made an extensive collection of manuscripts, medals, vases, and urns; so numerous were they, that he purchased a couple of houses in Park-street, Westminster, for their reception. This collection, known as the Townley Marbles, was purchased in 1805 for the sum of 28,000*l.* The Phigaleian and Elgin Marbles cost 35,000*l.*

"These sums, enormous as they appear, sink into insignificance before the amount of money still annually expended on this establishment. In 1855 the total expenditure was 59,047*l. 5s.*; and the estimate for 1856-7 is 56,180*l.*

Government is extremely liberal in support of this institution, and its liberality is cherished by a portentous flourish of annual statistics. The number of volumes consulted during the past year in the Reading Room of the Library is estimated to be 1564 per diem. The number of readers was, however, only 194 per diem. Nevertheless, the space set apart for readers has been deemed insufficient, and a splendid fortune has been expended in the construction of a new reading-room:

"The new Reading-room, erected, it is said, at a cost of 100,000*l.* is a splendid apartment. It is of a circular form, 140 feet in diameter, and 106 feet in height. The tables will accommodate nearly 400 readers, and the ranges of book-shelves, of wrought iron, are calculated to hold one million volumes. It is the largest reading-room in the world, and is perfectly fire-proof."

The number of general visitors to the British Museum, notwithstanding a greatly increased population, has fallen off during the past year from upwards of a million in

1849-50 to 459,000. "We fear," says the Almanack, "that the arrangements are not such as they should be."

The National Gallery is of yet more recent origin:—

"When the British Museum was established it was intended as a repository for every kind of curiosity, including paintings, of which Sir Hans Sloane left a goodly number, and one wing of the building was appropriated for that department. But as in course of time the number of articles increased, so the space was found too narrow to exhibit them, and the want of a National Gallery became apparent. Committees of the House had reported on the expediency of such an establishment, but, from some unexplained cause, its erection was delayed. In 1811 Sir Francis Bourgeois died in possession of a magnificent gallery, with which, for want of some national institution, he founded the Dulwich Gallery; and in the year 1822, Mr. John Julius Angerstein, a native of St. Petersburg, but who had been, for upwards of half-a-century, partner in a banking-house in London, also died, leaving a considerable collection of pictures—for disposal by public auction. The Government of that day—(influenced, it is said, by King George IV., but more especially by the promise of Sir George Beaumont, in 1823, that if they would purchase Mr. Angerstein's collection and commence the foundation of a National Gallery, he would present the whole of his collection, valued at about 8000*l.*, to form a nucleus for other benefactions)—obtained from parliament a grant of 60,000*l.*, and thus secured Mr. Angerstein's collection for the public.

"Such was the origin of the National Gallery, which, in the month of March, 1824, was opened in Pall Mall, under the name of 'The Angerstein Collection.'

"The Rev. William Holwell Carr shortly after bequeathed thirty-five pictures, mostly of the Italian School, and he has been followed by many others, such as King William IV., the Marquis of Stafford, the Earl of Ellesmere, Lord Farnborough, and many other gentlemen; and recently the splendid donation of J. M. W. Turner, on condition that a proper site should be provided for them; and that of Mr. Vernon, whose collection has been removed to Marlborough House, have considerably augmented the number. Immense sums have also been laid out in the purchase of pictures by the old masters; for instance, 3000 guineas were given for a small painting on wood, 13½ inches high and 10 wide, in a small glass frame, called *The Holy Family*, by Correggio.

"Though it is said that the National Gallery is even now far behind a few of our private collections, yet, containing as it does some of the finest paintings by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian, Raphael, Correggio, the Poussins, Velazquez, Vandyck, Claude, Rubens, Rembrandt, Teniers, Murillo, Canaletto, and others of the masters; and Hogarth, Wilson, Reynolds, Gainsborough, West, Lawrence, Turner, Jackson, Wilkie, and many more from among the list of British painters of the modern school, we can already boast that we possess a Picture Gallery of no small value; and that it is justly appreciated by the public is evidenced by the numbers who daily crowd thither to inspect the collection. There are now between 200 and 300 pictures in Trafalgar-square, of which 96 have been purchased, 69 presented, and 100 bequeathed."

The Government has exercised a just liberality in making arrangements for the foundation of a National Gallery worthy of the country, and it is to be hoped that the exigencies of the war will not delay longer than necessary the erection of the contemplated building at Kensington Gore. The governing body has been reformed by the removal of the *ex officio* trustees, who are still suffered to remain, in opposition to the public voice, on the board of management of the British Museum, and the number is to be re-

duced by death or otherwise to as few as six. A director, keeper, and travelling agent are, as we have formerly noticed, appointed, each with a liberal salary, and 10,000*l.* is to be voted annually for the purchase of pictures. It cannot be doubted that when proper space is afforded for the exhibition of pictures, the presentations and bequests from private sources will also increase manifold. Already the magnificently-finished pictures of Turner, and some valuable works of art, bequeathed to the nation by Sir Francis Chantrey, are waiting for space to be exhibited, and still further additions are contemplated through the bequest of Samuel Rogers and the removal of the Dulwich Gallery of Pictures.

At the Botanical Gardens of Kew, an important advance in point of scientific usefulness is to be noted. The rise and progress of this establishment is full of national and historic interest :—

"About the middle of the seventeenth century, the spot that now forms the Royal Gardens at Kew, together with a residence called Kew House, belonged to R. Bennett, Esq., whose daughter and heiress married Lord Capel. Kew House and grounds then passed into the hands of Mr. Molyneux, who was secretary to King George II. (when Prince of Wales), and who married Lady Elizabeth Capel. He was well known as a man of literature and an astronomer. With an instrument of Mr. Molyneux's own construction, and in those very grounds, Dr. Bradley made the valuable discoveries relating to the fixed stars, to commemorate which an inscription was placed by the late King William IV. on the pedestal of a sun-dial, which stands on the identical spot which had been occupied by Dr. Bradley's telescope, upon the lawn, opposite to the present palace.

"The Prince of Wales, who was son to George II., and father to George III., admiring the situation of Kew House, took a long lease of it from the Capel family about the year 1730, and began to form the pleasure-grounds, containing about 270 acres. They were completed by his widow, Augusta, princess dowager of Wales, who delighted in superintending the improvements, then conducted upon a most extensive scale. At this time Sir W. Chambers was employed in decorating the Gardens at Kew with temples, &c., an account of which he published in a large folio work with many plates.

"The Exotic Department of this Garden was commenced by the same Princess, and much favoured by the Earl of Bute, about the middle of the eighteenth century. Many of the finest foreign trees were contributed by Archibald, Duke of Argyle (styled by Horace Walpole the Treemonger), who sent them from his once richly-stored garden at Whinton, near Hounslow.

"Queen Charlotte evinced much interest in the increase of the collection of plants; and justly does the late Sir James E. Smith, President of the Linnean Society, bear testimony to the Queen's love of botany when he says, 'that the genus *Strelitzia* stands on the sure basis of botanical knowledge and zeal, few persons having cherished the study of nature more ardently, or cultivated it so deeply, as Her Majesty.' Under such auspices, and aided by the enlightened patronage of Sir Joseph Banks, it was only to be expected that the Gardens of Kew should become celebrated all over the world."

The great Palm-House, in which there is such a brilliant display of tropical vegetation in full health and vigour, has indeed become celebrated all over the world, and arrangements are being made for enlarging the very interesting Museum of Economic Botany, founded by Sir William Hooker. Another addition made, during the past year, to this establishment, and of which there is no mention in the Almanack, is the creation of an Assistant-Director, and the appointment of

Dr. Joseph Hooker to that important scientific office.

We may, however, point to the foundation of the Royal Commission as, perhaps, the most noticeable feature, for all practical purposes, towards the encouragement of national science and art :—

"The Royal Commission was originally appointed by her Majesty, as its name implies, for the promotion and conduct of the Great Exhibition which was held in Hyde Park, with such extraordinary success, in 1851. At the close of that Exhibition a considerable surplus, after defraying every expense, remained in the hands of the Commissioners, and it became a question how that surplus, amounting to 180,000*l.*, should be appropriated. It being found that under their original constitution the Commissioners had no power of disposing of it in any way, her Majesty was pleased, by means of a Supplemental Charter, to incorporate them permanently for the purpose; and in a Report, dated 11th Nov. 1852, the Commissioners laid before her a general outline of the scheme proposed by them. This Report will be found amongst the Parliamentary Papers of the Session 1852-53.

"The scheme in question may be briefly described as contemplating the union, in a convenient position in the metropolis, of the numerous institutions connected with science and the arts, a great part of the benefits calculated to be conferred by which are found to be at present lost, owing to a want of unity of system, as well as to the fact of the large portion of the funds which each of them is compelled to expend in such items as house-accommodation, &c., instead of being available for the especial purposes for which it was established,—an outlay which would be in a great measure saved if arrangements could be made for their holding their meetings in some common building. A similar union, in the same locality, of the various Government departments that have in view the promotion of art and science is proposed; and it is an essential part of the scheme that the spot should be large enough to admit, from time to time, of the establishment of any other institutions with kindred objects.

"Upon the above principles, the union on one spot of such institutions as the National Gallery, the Fine Art Collections now deposited in the British Museum, the Marlborough House Museum, the Department of Science and Art in connexion with the Board of Trade, the Society of Arts, the various learned and scientific bodies in the metropolis, the Educational Museum contemplated by the Government, the Patent Commissioners' Museum of Models of Inventions, the Trade Museum in course of formation by the Royal Commissioners, and many others, would become practicable.

"But, besides such objects as the above, the Royal Commissioners especially proposed the formation of a Central College of Industrial Instruction, in connexion with provincial institutions of a similar character. The necessity of such an institution was shown by the Commissioners in the Report already mentioned, from their experience of the Great Exhibition, which led them to the conclusion that, unless vigorous steps were taken to provide systematic instruction for our artisans in the principles of the arts on which their respective industries depend, this country runs the greatest risk of being distanced in the race of competition by its foreign rivals, by whom the importance of such instruction was better appreciated. It is understood that the correctness of this opinion has been confirmed in the strongest manner by the results of the recent Universal Exhibition at Paris.

"It is obvious that a scheme of this magnitude requires a very considerable extent of space for its satisfactory development, and the Commissioners accordingly considered that they would be best discharging the duties entrusted to them by not only suggesting the means for its execution, but also taking the practical step of obtaining possession, so far as their means permitted, of the land required for the purpose.

"Her Majesty's Government approving of the recommendations of the Commissioners, agreed, in 1852, to advise Parliament to contribute a sum equal to that which the Commissioners themselves proposed to devote to the purchase in question, viz., 150,000*l.* With the fund of 300,000*l.* thus obtained, combined with a further sum of 27,500*l.* subsequently contributed by Parliament, and a smaller additional amount advanced by the Commission, a large tract of land, of about eighty-six acres, in a very favourable position at Kensington Gore, opposite Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, has been purchased, and is now being prepared for its destined objects by means of the formation of magnificent roads across it of from eighty to a hundred feet wide, and other improvements. The estate is very conveniently situated, and it is only owing to accidental and family circumstances that it has not long since been built over. No similar piece of ground is to be found in the vicinity of the centre of London.

"The House of Commons Committee of 1853 on the National Gallery, after fully considering the subject, agreed to recommend Parliament that the new National Gallery should be erected on this site, as proposed by the Royal Commission; and this decision may be considered as involving with it the removal to the building to be thus erected of the antiquities, sculpture, and other fine art collections, now located at the British Museum. The present war with Russia has, however, necessarily retarded the practical execution of these plans.

"In the meantime, however, great inconvenience has been felt from the want of the means of receiving and exhibiting various important collections connected with science and art that already exist; and, with the sanction of the Treasury, Parliament voted last Session, on the recommendation of the Royal Commission, the sum of 15,000*l.* for the erection of a building on the Kensington Gore estate, with the necessary fittings, &c., adapted for the purpose of a museum.

"This building is now being erected accordingly, on the south-east extremity of the estate, on a spot formerly known as Brompton Park. It is of corrugated iron, and covers a space of rather more than an acre. With the galleries, it furnishes an exhibiting space of about 1½ acre. Messrs. C. D. Young and Co., of Edinburgh, the eminent iron-founders, are the contractors, and it is expected to be entirely finished early in the summer.

"The collections which it is at present proposed to exhibit in it are the following :—1. The Patent Museum; 2. The Educational Museum in connexion with the Privy Council; 3. The Marlborough House Collections; 4. The Trade Collection presented to the Royal Commission by various Exhibitors on the close of the Great Exhibition of 1851, and now temporarily deposited in Kensington Palace; 5. The valuable Museum of Animal Produce formed by the Society of Arts in conjunction with the Royal Commission, the entire interest in which has recently been acquired by the latter; together with others of a similar character."

A further Report, detailing the more recent progress made by the Royal Commissioners in their duties will, it is understood, be laid before Parliament shortly; and it will then be seen what prospect there is of some of the foregoing suggestions being carried into execution. The assembling of the learned societies in Burlington House has been anxiously looked for, and we see no reason why this should be longer delayed. The compilation and printing of a classed catalogue of the National Library, for general circulation, has also been loudly demanded. Both these are subjects which ought to engage the attention of Royal Commissioners, and need not to be kept in waiting for the return of peace.

The principal advance, in an educational point of view, is that made by the establishment of the Department of Science and Art in connexion with the Board of Trade. It was in the Queen's speech, at the opening of

Parliament in 1853, that intimation was first given of the introduction of this comprehensive scheme of aids to instruction, and greatly have schools and schoolmasters, throughout the country, been benefited by its advantages in the creation and distribution of improved illustrations, diagrams, and models, and in other various ways. Both in the educational and higher departments, there are signs of a more cultivated taste, coupled with a desire for their more practical application to the domestic purposes of life, all of which tends emphatically to show that science and art are progressing among us in a solid and satisfactory manner.

Lectures on Political Economy. Vol. I. By Dugald Stewart, Esq. Edited by Sir William Hamilton, Bart. Constable and Co.

THIS volume of Dugald Stewart's works contains the commencement of his Lectures on Political Economy, which have never before been published. In the 'Literary Gazette,' 1855, p. 252, we gave an account of the destruction of Mr. Stewart's MSS. by his son, Colonel Stewart, as described by Mr. Foss in a letter communicated to 'Notes and Queries' in April of last year. Sir William Hamilton repeats the narrative of this sad business, adding the explanation that Colonel Stewart, when on service in India, had suffered from an attack of *coup de soleil*, "a malady," he says, "which often manifests its influence in the most capricious manner, and long after an apparent disappearance of the affection." However this may be, the destruction of the manuscripts as prepared by the author for the press, has thrown the editor upon less satisfactory and complete materials for the present publication. The volume is made up from various sources, fragmentary papers which escaped destruction, and letters and notes taken by pupils so far back as 1809. The propriety of publishing at all from such materials was doubtful, and Sir William Hamilton, after consulting the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Palmerston, and others of Stewart's surviving pupils, who gave no judgment on the subject, has undertaken the work on his own responsibility. His own representation of the case sufficiently justifies the publication:—

"Although we must always regret the loss of many important writings, old and new, still I feel confident, that the manuscripts remaining, however their value might be enhanced did they exhibit the course in its original integrity, with the addition of subsequent improvements, will, even in their present state, be found eminently worthy of publication. For, although they may not fulfil all the intentions of the author, still, even without his last amendments, they afford a systematic view of Political Science in its most important doctrines, written too with the eloquence, wisdom, and enlightened liberality which distinguish all the works of Mr. Stewart. Many changes, and considerable progress in the doctrines of Political Economy, have undoubtedly been made since these Lectures were delivered; but these Lectures themselves have exerted a powerful influence in determining this advancement. For while Mr. Stewart's instruction inculcated, more or less articulately, these improved opinions, no master, perhaps, ever exerted a stronger and more beneficial influence on his disciples. 'His disciples,' to quote the words of Sir James Mackintosh, 'he lived to see among the lights and ornaments of the Council and the Senate; and without derogation from his writings it may be said, that his disciples were among his best works.' As an introduction to Political Economy and Politics, these Lectures,

as they stand, will be found, I am persuaded, among the best extant; and though they may not exhaust all the problems of the science, they omit none of primary importance. In particular, they will prove a valuable preparative and accompaniment to the study of the 'Wealth of Nations,' affording, as they do, a criticism and supplement to the immortal work of Smith. The doctrines of Smith are not, however, considered to the exclusion of those of minor authors; and we have here commemorated and canvassed, with an enlightened impartiality, the speculations of many able but now forgotten thinkers."

The 'Lectures' contain, as is the case with all Mr. Stewart's writings, much eloquence, philosophy, and good sense; and the illustrative extracts, from a variety of writers on political science, add to the value of the volume. But we are afraid that many of those who are interested in the important subjects under discussion will pass by this work, in their impatience to get at the light which the experience of fifty years has thrown upon them in more modern writings. The last course of Dugald Stewart in the University of Edinburgh was so long ago as 1809-1810. Still it is interesting to have, in however imperfect a form, the views on Political Economy of one who was a personal friend and an enlightened disciple of Adam Smith.

The Wanderer in Arabia; or, Western Footsteps in Eastern Tracks. By George T. Lowth, Esq. With Illustrations. 2 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

Eastern Experiences collected during a Winter's Tour in Egypt and the Holy Land. By Adam Steinmetz Kennard. Longman and Co.

"THE crowded world," says the lamented Eliot Warburton, in 'The Crescent and the Cross,' "admits of no retirement but that which is fenced round by deserts, and difficulty, and danger. The Red Indian in his prairie does not range more freely than does the traveller in the East." Very much in this spirit Mr. Lowth professes to have gone forth to his wanderings in Arabia. "Let us go out," he says, "upon the desert. It is the emblem of release from all the manacles of complex laws and the fetters of cities. We walk out upon its free plains, and shake off the bonds of narrow cares and of girding custom tyrannizing over each moment of time and every action of our hand. The grand expanse lies around us, boundless but by the curtain of the drooping sky, wild, unfurrowed, roadless, peaceful, silent." In spite of the sweetness of silence and of solitude, Mr. Lowth is of Cowper's mind in thinking it best to have a friend "to whom to whisper, solitude is sweet." His wife was along with him in his tour, and generally abundant company besides. One of the chief recommendations of his book, among the multitudes of similar works, is its showing how accessible are these regions in our day, and how easily English ladies, who choose to submit to the fatigues and discomforts, may visit all the scenes of ordinary eastern travel. The Nile voyage was made by three boats in company, and there were Sixteen or ladies in all of them. A merry time they seem to have had of it, apart from all the inspirations of the scenes. Some appearance of peril there was, now and then, to add to the excitement of the journey, as in shooting the second cataract of the Nile on the return from Nubia:—

"For about fifty yards the slope is smooth, and

then it breaks up into wild water for the rest of the descent and along the channel beyond. When we came fairly on to the slope, and were on the smooth rushing sheet, the Reis gave a shout—'Toss your oars,' and every oar leaped from the stream, and the *Cambria* was committed to the steerer's steadiness of hand. I looked back to the helm, and both men were standing up and holding the tiller hard and fast between them. The Reis was erect in the rigging, with one arm up and his hand spread as a guiding mark to the pilots—for the critical turn is made in the worst part of the fall, at near the bottom of the slope, and where any failure of the boat to answer to her helm would be fatal—and where the roar prevents any voice from being heard. The bows drooped, and away we went at a splendid pace down the inclined plane right into the surge; and then the boat rose and fell with rapid motion, as she got fairly among the broken waters. These were thrown back from both rocky sides of the narrow channel towards the middle, where all was a foaming mass—wild leaping torrent. As the boat dashed along from one wave to another, the crest of each wave caught her heavily under the bows, and the water surged up on both sides in masses, five or six feet above her bulwarks, and fell upon her deck. What a pace she went through these! But all went well; till, as we were making the turn towards the bottom, she came down on a big wave with all her weight and force, and was driven right into it—her head went under—and then the water rose up high in front, over it and on both her bows, buried the Reis and the visitor Sheikhs, and fell on the deck in a mass; and, rushing all along, it gave us a cold bath up to our knees on its way down into the cabins, the spray blinding us with its showers. But the little boat rose buoyantly from it; and as we emerged from our bath, we found ourselves past the fall, and hurrying along the boiling stream below it; and looking back I saw the Cataract above us, and the waves coming leaping down in pursuit of their escaped prey. In a couple of hundred yards the narrow channel opened into a small bay, and the stream bending sharp round to the right, a back-water was formed in the bay; and the crew dropping their oars into the water, pulled us with a couple of sharp strokes into this bay; and the danger of the Cataract was over."

To pull down the cataract is a vested Nubian interest, the ordinary Egyptian crew being stowed away on the roof of the cabin during the passage. Their time for activity soon returned, and boat-racing excited them to wild exertion:—

"It was decided in council—the *Antar* being the largest and heaviest boat, shall lead the way, and the *Fortunate* and *Cambria* follow at a safe distance, in the event of there being but one channel,—but whenever the channels of the river will allow of it, the boats shall never follow each other in a direct line, but shall go down in parallel lines. This, it was thought, would prevent the boats from being driven on each other—a thing very likely to happen without some rule of the road—as the river was falling, sand-banks becoming daily more frequent, channels more narrow and uncertain, and fewer in number,—sometimes the whole of the deep water being confined to one narrow and sinuous stream. But though this plan answered well as regarded fouling, by degrees the arrangement—that the *Antar* should go always in front, became intolerable to the two other crews. What those two crews liked and wished for, was perpetual races. Had they not been accustomed to this fun all the way up?—and were they now to go sneaking down at the stern of the *Antar*? This manner of going was galling to them; and their pride was hurt, too, as well as their amusement spoiled. Could they not lick the *Antar*? Of course they could; and their gall-bladders burst with vexation and disappointment. For two or three days the crews submitted to the order given—no races, and no going in front of the *Antar*. The fact was, that there were Sixteen on board of all three of the boats, and they managed to infect each other with

a diseased expectation of accidents ; and races, it was decided by them, were conducive to evil, as other races for other reasons in other climes are, by some philosophers, held to be. I confess I felt for my eager young friends ; and having always had a weakness for Arabs, whether in horse flesh or human flesh, from the Derby field to the Nile lot—the Desert blood—I was sorry for their disappointment. I was divided, in fact, between a desire not to injure the Sitteen enjoyment of their Nile life, by making fear a daily ingredient of it—an effectual damper of pleasure—and an objection to spoil sport and deny our young Arabian blood their fun. It ended, after some steady observance of rules for a day or two, in their gradually infringing them—taking advantage of circumstances—making opportunities—slight racings—an occasional ‘straight mile’—the Sitteen gaining confidence from safety—the crews presuming on impunity—and a gradual advance from secret winking at trials, to open encouragement of much racing.”

As on the rivers of Egypt, so amidst the sands of Arabia, these travellers passed their time in cheerful excitement. The following sketch of encamping in the desert gives the idea of no more difficulty, and much less fatigue, than a ramble among the mountains of Wales or Scotland :—

“ This day we added a new rule to our order of travel—that we should dismount every evening when we came in sight of the encampment, then at about an hour’s distance over the plain ;—and accordingly, when the white tents appeared—our village home for the night—we sent all those with us forward, people and camels, and had a walk. This last hour was very pleasant, and the walk a great improvement—a strolling saunter, during which you picked up odd pebbles and marbles, and found flowers—very sweet scented some of them—or you stopped to admire some bit of scenery, or to talk over the spot and its associations ; and so you strolled on leisurely to your village. This evening walk always refreshed the Sitteen after their long day in the sun, and by this means they also escaped an hour of the dromedary motion, which sometimes would produce fatigue in some degree. And a cheerful little village it was when you arrived. The encampment was generally pitched in the form of an irregular circle, the two large tents occupying nearly half of it, the three smaller ones bending round from either extremity, and the Arabs, with their camel baggage and camels, bringing round the circle to the front. When you entered within the circle, what a busy and welcoming scene it was after your long day’s ride. The tents all alight with eastern lamps—the doors thrown wide, all temptingly—the kitchen fires burning brightly, and sounds, and scents, and steamy doings on either hand. Selim and Yusuf were active and busy in making you all at home, and Beshara and Aboo El Haj moving about—the one with his gay laugh, and the other in his noiseless way—and both adding something to the general convenience of your tent or your baggage ; while the Arabs and the camels were scattered about in groups, the greater part of the former usually collecting by degrees in a circle by their own rude belongings round a blazing fire.”

A storm in the desert one day broke the monotony of the march :—

“ We had nearly gained the Wady Araba—the intention being to push on and cross it that day and encamp among the low hills—the limits of the spurs of Mount Seir, when dark clouds appeared to gather in the south and west, and it was soon evident that a storm was pursuing us, and would probably be upon us before long. I never saw clouds gather for a storm so rapidly as these did. The baggage camels were some little distance behind us, and as we halted for them and the tents to protect us from the coming deluge, by ill-luck the whole body of camels in a dip of the ground took a wrong turn and followed a hollow leading away from us.—But the storm was coming on fast, and nothing could be finer than its advance. The

air about us was bright and sunny and still, and at a mile distance through the clear atmosphere was approaching one enormous wall of sand—from right to left it extended with a wide front, and from earth to heaven, and behind it we heard the storm—the roll of the thunder and the roar of the wind. It was singularly fine ; but the question was—which would be up with us first—the camels or the wall of sand ? Men hurried off across the waving plain to check the camels in their wrong line, and we prepared to receive the storm. We wrapped ourselves in our cloaks, put down our dromedaries—their bags around us, and ourselves under their lee—the monster ‘Areef-el-Naka’ affording some shelter for his rider, the Sitt ; and so we sat on the ground and waited. Fortunately the wall of sand proved to be a little in advance of the rain, and this and the camels made a race of it, and ran a dead heat. We were half-blinded and choked by the sand as it swept over us in a mass, but the animals straggled in in the midst of it ; all hands went to work to get up one small tent. The storm belied in our ears ; in our blinded state we could see nothing beyond a few yards ; the rain came down, but the tent spread its protecting folds ; we huddled under it, and then the storm burst on us in all its fury. The ground was good holding ground, and the two Towara men and the Egyptians looked well to the tent pegs during the first and worst rush of the wind ; and the little tent, though it threatened perpetually and loudly to go right away and on into the Wady Araba, did not do so, but stood fast. I never knew heavier rain for twenty minutes, but it did not penetrate the canvas. The rain continued for about an hour, and then it was fine ; but the storm hung on Jebel Haroun, and the thunder cracked and rolled among the mountains round Petra for the rest of the day.”

Mr. Lowth gives very good descriptions of the places visited, but there is little of novelty to be expected in the information about routes so frequented. The book is written in a thoroughly unartificial and most lively style, and in this, with the faithful and graphic sketches of the actual incidents of the journey, lies its chief merit. It also shows how English ladies, provided they have the good health, good sense, and cheerful spirit of Mr. Lowth’s travelling companion, may, with very little trouble or difficulty, enjoy scenes of travel which formerly were reserved only for those who were willing to brave peril and adventure.

MR. KENNARD’S narrative carries the reader over very nearly the same route as that of the preceding book. His first chapter commences with Malta and Alexandria, and his volume ends with the return to Europe from Beyrouth via Alexandria and Trieste. When we say this, every one knows every place where Mr. Kennard has been, and much of what he is sure to put in his book ; nevertheless, it is a pleasant and sensible volume, describing well-known places with freshness of manner, and bringing the most recent experiences of Eastern life and customs vividly before fireside travellers. Here, for instance, is the author’s first experience of shopping in the East. It was at Cairo, whither he had hurried, disgusted with the Europeanized look and customs of Alexandria :—

“ When fitting out my boat for a two months’ cruise on the Nile, I went one morning to buy in a stock of crockery ; and, following the guidance of my Dragoman, I entered, as he said, the cheapest shop in Cairo—or rather, a shop where such a broad limit is put on to the price of everything, that bargaining and hagitting down may be carried on to an almost unlimited extent. Seating myself on the proprietor’s divan, and accommodated with his own pipe, I prepared myself to watch the proceedings going on below me. First of all, Ibra-

him, as if the whole shop was his own and everything in it, gathered together a vast heap of all that he said we should want, then squatting himself on his haunches, he blew three or four furious clouds from his pipe, and informed me that he was going to make the price. I wanted to offer so much down for the lot, and so cut both the matter and the expense short ; but this he would not allow. The business then commenced. Taking a soup-plate, worth a few pence, in his hand, Ibrahim held it at arm’s length, and looking at it with a contemptuous smile, seemed as if doubtful whether he should pitch it into the street, or make an offer for it. Deciding on the latter course, he asked, ‘How much?’ There was a pause for about a minute, like the lull that intervenes between the lightning flash and the thunder-clap, and then the words ‘Ashereen queersh’ (one dollar) slipped quietly from the lips of the vendor of crockery. Tearing his tarboosh and white cap from his head, Ibrahim flung them on the ground, and then, stretching out both his hands, he began to shower down a torrent of abuse on the head of the unfortunate proprietor, who sat calmly smoking, without appearing to take any notice. The storm at length subsiding, Ibrahim ventured again to refer to the object of dissension : then came another burst of rage, not quite so fierce as the last, and this time the proprietor attempted to expostulate ; and thus matters continued for the next half-hour, with this exception, that at every fresh outbreak Ibrahim got more gentle, whilst the proprietor got more exasperated ; till at last all was settled, the plate being handed over to me for two piasters instead of twenty. Ibrahim then looked up to me and said, ‘You see, sir, when I make little quarrel?’ On assuring him that I could not but have seen it, he said, ‘This is because I make the good price.’”

The account of an evening amidst the ruins of Thebes is a good specimen of the average incidents of the Nile voyage :—

“ On a lotus-capital, belonging to some fallen column, my friend and I sat ; and as we watched the sun’s fast-sinking splendour, glowing crimson among the halls and lofty arches of Medeemet Haboo—the dragoman filled and lighted our chibous. The shades of evening drew rapidly around us, and still we sat and smoked—a queer kind of homage to pay Rameses III., to whom this temple is dedicated, and whose battles are still raging in relief along its walls. The sun bade us farewell at last, and in the moonlight we stumbled out again on to the plain, and, deafened by the croak of many frogs, retraced our steps back to the Nile, there to criticise Egyptian architecture over kebobs and pistachio nuts.

“ A night’s rest, and a swim in the river, once more fitted us for antiquarian researches. We questioned ‘Murray’s Handbook,’ the dragoman, and an Arab guide, possessed of but a very imperfect English education, and the reply was the same from each—‘Tombs.’ ‘What, tombs again?’ said we. ‘Well be it so.’ And half an hour afterwards we lighted our torches at the entrance to the Assaseef.

“ Never shall I forget the pungent odour which came forth to welcome us to the abode of Death. However, as we had long ago determined that, whilst we remained in Egypt, we would not be too particular in our fancies, we were soon exploring its recesses. We had got to some depth with our pocket-handkerchiefs applied to our nasal organs, when the confined atmosphere, and the aforesaid essence of decayed mummies, became so very powerful, that not all the beckonings and gestures of our guides could induce us to go a step further ; so we beat a rapid retreat, and the sun’s glare felt quite refreshing, when we stood once more within its influence. I had now had enough of Tombs—not so my friend ; so, whilst he went in search of more, I remained beneath the protection of a cotton umbrella, to make a sketch of the Theban plain, from the heights of Dayr el Bahree. In the columned grove of the Memnonium we spent the sultry hours of noon, lost in admiration at the

excessive grace of its Osiride avenues, and the proportions of the huge statue of Rameses which lies a disjointed and gigantic mass, amidst the ruin of his own palace.

" And now adieu to Thebes for awhile ; for our boat has once more shaken out her wings ; the reis and his Nubian crew have arisen from the torpid state in which they have been buried for the last day or two, and are singing, as we slip our moorings, and move lazily out into the stream ; and the Howadji, once more reclining on their divans, spread beneath the awning, indulge in dreams of the Cataracts, and the ever-distant south."

Besides the ordinary tour in Palestine, Mr. Kennard had a pleasant trip to the Lebanon, Damascus, and Baalbek. The brevity of his book is no little recommendation, the whole history of the travels being told in a single volume of about four hundred pages.

Travels in Albania, and other Provinces of Turkey, in 1809 and 1810. By the Right Hon. Lord Broughton, G.C.B. 2 vols. A New Edition. Murray.

THE Albanian travels of Lord Broughton, better known as the Mr. Hobhouse of the days of Byron, have acquired fresh interest from recent events. The eyes of the world are turned to the Turkish empire, and the provinces long ago visited and described by Byron and Hobhouse, are again destined to play no unimportant part in history.

" Land of Albania ! where Iskander rose,
Theme of the young, and beacon of the wise,
And he his namesake, whose oft-baffled foes
Shrunk from his deeds of chivalrous emprise;
Land of Albania ! let me bend mine eyes
On thee, thou rugged nurse of savage men ! "

In a note to this passage in " Childe Harold " (II. 38), Lord Byron says, " The Arnouts, or Albanese, struck me forcibly by their resemblance to the Highlanders of Scotland, in dress, figure, and manner of living. Their very mountains seem Caledonian, with a kinder climate. The kilt, though white ; the spare, active form ; their dialect, Celtic in its sound ; and their hardy habits, all carried me back to Morven." Gibbon had before remarked of Albania, that a country " within sight of Italy is less known than the interior of America." Byron, in quoting this, adds that " with the exception of Major Leake, then officially resident at Joannina, no Englishman had ever advanced beyond the capital into the interior." Mr. Hobhouse's account of the country, as it was the first, is still the best that we possess. In the present edition the results of the researches of subsequent travellers, in the form of footnotes, greatly add to the value of the work, and bring the description of the country, its monuments, and its inhabitants, abreast of our own time. Among the travellers and explorers to whom Lord Broughton is most indebted in this part of his work is Colonel Leake, many extracts from whose " Researches in Greece," " Topography of Athens," and other writings, enrich the volumes. The works of Mr. Hughes, Colonel Mure, Mr. Cramer, Dr. Holland, and other recent travellers, have furnished many valuable notes and illustrations. Lord Broughton has very rightly kept the additional matter separate from his original journal, so as not to interfere with the genuineness of the record of impressions made of what he saw, heard, and thought, nearly half a century ago. Besides the frequent notes, there are important and interesting facts in an appendix, containing letters from Corai, the Romaeus scholar and philologist, and from Dr. Vincent,

addressed to the author soon after the first publication of his travels, and communications from Mr. Pittakys, conservator of antiquities at Athens, from Sir Richard Westmacott, and Professor Cockerell, on " The Archaeological Monuments of Greece, and on their Present Condition." As Lord Broughton's travels have been so long before the public, and have a well-established reputation, we are not called upon to give any detailed notice of the present edition, but we cannot refrain from expressing our admiration of the learning, industry, and care so conspicuous throughout the work. While the personal narrative has as much interest as ever, and the descriptive part of the book retains its value, there will also be found many passages of direct practical importance in their bearing upon the political and military transactions of our own times. For instance, two questions that have been among the most prominent in public discussion of late are, the employment of foreign mercenaries under English officers, and the recruiting of our armies in the territories of neutral states. We find on these two subjects the following historical illustration in Lord Broughton's Journal. He is speaking of the Zantiote corps, raised by one of our consuls in the Levant, which figured for a time in our Army List as the Greek light infantry :—

" The first service this Macedonian Legion, about which such a ridiculous parade was once made in our papers, was ordered upon, was the storming of the French lines at Santa Maura. They were marched up in our way of warfare, and continued in good order until the batteries opened upon them, when they fell upon their faces and attempted to dig holes for themselves in the sand. The English who were their officers in vain endeavoured to raise them, and, being left standing alone, were nearly all killed or wounded. The gallant young man at whose wish the experiment had been tried, and who now commands them, was shot in the arm. This was no time to trifl. A company or two of the thirty-fifth were marched up, and carried the place in an instant. I had this account from an officer of rank who was on the spot. It was unreasonable to suppose that English pay or English discipline had given these troops English intrepidity. They should have been allowed to fight in their own fashion. The habits of men are not so suddenly changed ; and, allowing these warriors a due share of personal courage, it should have been recollected that it had never been their custom to expose themselves to open fire."

With regard to the raising of this regiment Lord Broughton uses language that might have been written with reference to the recent attempt at enlistment in America ; though, in the latter case, it is to be presumed that more direct sanction was given by the home authorities :—

" It is certain that no English government would knowingly encourage the recruiting of our armies in the territories of foreign states. Yet this is not the first time that interested agents have made a similar effort, and brought disgrace upon the British character. A Frenchman in our employ was arrested in the execution of the same scheme in the dominions of the Emperor of Austria. This happened whilst a gentleman who would scorn every unworthy practice was at the head of foreign affairs. He knew nothing of the matter. Thus it is that the resources of our country are often trusted to unworthy hands ; and though no secretary of state would himself connive at sending an emigrant Frenchman kidnapping into the dominions of an ally, yet such a person was sent upon such a mission."

The disgraceful state of the British consular establishments in the Levant, as described in 1810, is very little amended in our

own day, as the revelations of 'The Roving Englishman' prove. Lord Broughton's remarks well deserve attention.

" Besides the mission at Constantinople, we have only one minister in the Levant who is an Englishman by birth. Every other agent, whether under the denomination of Minister, Consul, or Vice-Consul, is a Greek, except at one or two places where Jews are employed. The salaries of these agents, who are all petty traders, are not such as to enable them to support themselves with any respectability as representatives of the British nation. The English Vice-Consul at Scio has about twelve pounds sterling a-year ; the French Vice-Consul at the same place, eleven hundred sequins, between five and six hundred pounds. The conduct of some of the Vice-Consuls is exceedingly disgraceful. The person settled in that capacity at Prezyza, who has many concerns with our Adriatic squadron, on receiving information that an English midshipman had made a present of the wreck of a prize to some Albanians, near whose village (Volondorako, opposite to Suli) he was thrown ashore, and who had received him very hospitably, applied to the Governor of Prezyza for an order to seize the vessel himself, pretending that all such casualties should turn to his advantage, as British Agent. He obtained the order, and was employed in making himself master of the hull and some damaged corn which it contained, whilst we were on the spot and heard all the bitter complaints of the indignant Albanians, who did not think the English, they said, ever made a present in order to take it back again.

" The French seldom employ any but French agents, and these are settled with adequate salaries in every seaport town, and in many inland places. The unwearied activity of these persons, not only in commercial, but political concerns, although beneath the dignified state of a British Resident, is very serviceable to the cause which they intend to promote. It may be alleged, perhaps, that no Englishman would condescend to take these small places ; they would not banish themselves, nor can they readily associate, as is the case with our enemies, with people of all kinds, stations, and capacities, from the most civilized to the most barbarous of mankind. And yet it would be well worth while to incur the expense of supporting some creditable commercial agents, who might, doubtless, be found amongst the mercantile establishments at Malta, and who, acting with vigilance and vigour under the British Minister at the Porte, without dealing out threats to the Turks and promises to the Greeks with the liberality of a Frenchman, or having recourse to any low intrigue, might not only support the dignity of the national character, but put their Government in possession of very valuable information."

An account is then given of the political position and influence of England in these regions, which subsequent events have much altered, but the remarks on the Embassy at Constantinople have still much force, and Lord Broughton appends to them this note, dated 1854 :—

" The importance of this post has not been diminished in the many years, not far short of half a century, which have elapsed since my visit to Constantinople ; and although the Turkey of that day is not the Turkey of this day, and we have to defend her in alliance with France against Russia, instead of with Russia against France, still the position is the same : the Black Sea—two narrow straits that separate Europe from Asia—and the vast Mediterranean waters and contiguous shores, which were for ages, and may be again, commanded by the sovereign of Byzantium—all these remain unchanged, and modern science has added to their natural importance in the map of the world. Let what will come of the present Turkish empire, no man can now (1854) shut his eyes to the fact that the end and aim of this great war is Constantinople, with all the vast dominant influences which the possession of that capital city must confer. England can never with honour, or with safety, abandon the position forced upon her by the crafty

Greek, who has long been stealing on his prey, and has become more furious from being stopped just as he had gathered himself up for his fatal spring. England need not aspire to uncontrolled power; far from it, but she must ever after speak with the voice of a master on the banks of the Bosphorus."

As an additional note to Volume I., in connexion with the references to Lord Byron throughout the work, Lord Broughton offers a generous tribute to the memory of his friend, in publishing a narrative of the whole proceedings relative to the proposed memorial in Westminster Abbey. The subject had been long at rest, and hopes were very generally entertained that the rancour of ecclesiastical bigotry had passed away, and that the custodiers of the Abbey would at length have admitted amongst the national monuments a memorial by which honour might be done to the genius and patriotism of the poet without forgetting his failings as a man. But the violent speech made last year in the House of Lords by the Bishop of London destroyed the last hope of the proposal being carried out. This has induced Lord Broughton now to come forward, as he thus explains:—

"It was the natural wish of Lord Byron's executors and friends that he should be buried in Westminster Abbey; and, when that wish could not be gratified, hopes were still entertained that some memorial of the great poet might find a place in that national sanctuary. Yet not only were these hopes disappointed, but twenty years after his death the proscription was maintained and defended, upon grounds which appeared to me wholly untenable. I had hitherto confined my exertions to originating the committee, and engaging the celebrated sculptor Thorwaldsen, for the construction of the intended monument, without taking any part in the public controversy to which the exclusion of Byron's remains from the Abbey had given rise. But the attack made, by almost the highest authority in the Church, on the memory of my friend, induced me to write and print a few copies of a pamphlet on the subject—and these copies I distributed privately to some of the subscribers to the monument and other literary friends. The acknowledgments I received for this small present from some of the most distinguished of these persons would furnish no inappropriate tribute to the memory of Byron, as well as a strong confirmation of my own views; and although publishing 'at the request of friends' has been long out of date, I trust I may be pardoned for taking the advice of the late Mr. Lockhart and other correspondents, who urged me to do then that which I venture, very tardily, after an interval of eleven years, to do now."

The facts of the case are few and well known. Byron died in 1824. No formal application for leave to bury him in Poets' Corner was made, for his friends expected that, under the influence of Dr. Ireland, who was then Dean, it would be refused. It was hoped that the same opposition would not be made to the admission of a monumental memorial, and application was made to the Dean by the late Mr. Murray, as secretary of the committee of subscribers, for leave to erect Thorwaldsen's statue, which had just arrived in England. The refusal then made was persisted in during Dr. Ireland's life, and two years after his death, in 1844, Sir Robert Peel, on being sounded by Lord Broughton, said there was no prospect of another application being then successful. The subject having been last year once more mooted, the Bishop of London gave the decided negative which has elicited Lord Broughton's present statement and argument. He shows that Westminster Abbey contains not only memorials but the remains of many as unworthy

in regard to moral character, while far inferior in fame or genius to Byron. Without referring to the tombs of miscellaneous personages, such as St. Evremond, notoriously irreligious and mischievously atheistic, and Mrs. Oldfield, the kind-hearted but frail actress, there are monuments in Poets' Corner to Prior, Congreve, Butler, Dryden, and even to Anstey, "whose pages abound in dirty double meanings, offensive alike to modesty and to religion, yet to whom a tablet, with an inscription a yard long, has been erected, with permission of the Dean, by whom Byron has been denied a place among the poets." Lord Broughton says, truly, that "half of the poets who are found there are authors of works which no careful person would put into the hands of a pupil." He is very far from offering any defence of Byron in regard to what was undeniably wrong in his works; nor does he palliate his faults, but he justly affirms that what is bad in Byron's poetry was not the result of a systematic and studied hostility to religion, which alone could justify the exclusion of his name from the walls of a place which is dedicated to the celebration of human greatness as well as to higher uses. The monuments in Poets' Corner are not there to celebrate the piety or morality of those whose names they bear, but their general fame and recognised genius or learning. A scrutiny of personal character, or an examination of separate passages of their writings, it has never been usual to make. Indeed, the only previous case of exclusion on record was that of Milton, who for half a century was refused a place; and the contemptible Dean Sprat refused to sanction the epitaph of Phillips because it contained the words *Soli Miltono secundus*—the very name of Milton being regarded as a pollution to the walls of the national sanctuary. Johnson, whose own prejudices against Milton are well known, tells this with indignant shame in the 'Lives of the Poets.' It is really humiliating to follow Lord Broughton in all his arguments. The only reasonable point urged by the Bishop of London was the inconsistency of honouring an avowed enemy of Christianity; but this charge against his friend is denied. Byron was not an enemy to Christianity in the sense that such men as Hume and Voltaire and Gibbon were. What is repugnant to religion in his works was the result of thoughtlessness, not of studied malice. His genius and his poetry may be honoured, without involving those who do so in any sanction of what is objectionable in his writings any more than in his life. At all events it is an unworthy prudery which has excluded his memorial from a place which enshrines the monuments of poets whose lives and whose works are as much open to reprobation. While Gay's lines,—

"Life is a jest, and all things show it;
I thought so once, and now I know it,"

stare us in the face with their silly profanity, the exclusion of a memorial of Byron from Poets' Corner, on the score of the atheistic tendency of his works, can scarcely be defended. The general opinion of those as well qualified to judge of the influence likely to be exercised by the presence of Byron's monument as the Bishop of London, may be seen in the list of the promoters of that monument. Besides the names of all the most eminent men of literature of the time, among whom were Campbell, Scott, Goethe, Jeffrey, Mackintosh, Moore, and Rogers, such men as Lord Chief Justice Denman, Sir Robert Peel, and Sir

Stratford Canning would not have lent their influence to any proposal obviously dangerous to the interests of religion and morality. "That Gifford, too," as Lord Broughton remarks, "did not see in the writings of Lord Byron what Bishop Blomfield sees in them is quite clear," and "it is no degradation of the Bishop of London to say that he is not a better judge of the tendency of the writings than was Mr. Gifford; and it is not detracting from the merits of the prelate to say that he is not a better man, nor a more pious man, nor a greater friend of the Church Establishment than was Mr. Gifford." Lord Broughton might have gone further, and raised the question, whether Byron's works have done more harm to religion and to the church than Dr. Blomfield's own conduct in his episcopate. With regard to Dean Ireland, Lord Broughton has shown that in editing the plays of Massinger, he was giving sanction and currency to writings as remote from piety and virtue as those of Byron. But this personal controversy and this scrutiny of books do not form the strong ground of the argument. The fact is, that the national cathedrals are used as places for honouring the memory of valour and genius as well as piety and worth. And while this use of sacred edifices is continued, the exclusion of Byron cannot be defended. As well might the faults of Nelson's character and life have excluded him from the place where he was laid in testimony of the nation's admiration of his exploits, and gratitude for his services. It is gratifying to conclude the statement of this painful subject, with the announcement that, as soon as the final determination of the authorities at Westminster Abbey became known, Dr. Whewell, as Master of Trinity College, made application for the monument, and Cambridge now has the honour of possessing the statue of Byron by Thorwaldsen.

The Owl of Owlstone Edge: His Travels, his Experience, and his Lucubrations. By the Author of 'St. Antholin's.' Joseph Masters.

The Spirit of the Holly. By Mrs. Octavius Frere Owen. Routledge and Co.

Holidays at the Cottage; or, a Visit to Aunt Susan. Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

The Birthday Council: or, How to be Useful. By Mrs. Alarie A. Watts. Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

Mary Matheson; or, Duties and Difficulties. Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

Naughty Boys; or, the Sufferings of Mr. Detteil. By Champfleury. Constable and Co.

Rachel Gray. By Miss Kavanagh. Hurst and Blackett.

A NUMBER of volumes we this week introduce to our readers, some of them specially prepared as Christmas or New Year gift-books, and others suitable for presents at any time of the year. The first is a book for the clergy, and for the wives of the clergy of the Church of England. Under the playful guise of an owl's narrative of his travels and observations, the homes of the clergy are described, and a great variety of personal characters and of domestic arrangements are cleverly illustrated. Though the book may seem to be written lightly, it is written with an earnest purpose; and in sketching some of the foibles and follies that present themselves in English personages, the author holds

the mirror up to nature, in order that what he describes may be avoided or removed. The lucubrations are divided into the headings of Hoot Genealogical, Hoot Domestic, Hoot Educational, Hoot Objurgatory, Hoot Vale-tudinarian, Hoot Magnificical, about a score of sketches in all, each of them exhibiting well-marked and typical phases of character. Seldom are truths so practical and wholesome as are conveyed in a manner so humorous and pleasant. The writer of this clever and useful volume is the Rev. F. E. Paget, M.A., author of 'Tales of the Village,' 'St. Antholin's,' and other well-known books on ecclesiastical subjects.

In the tale of 'The Spirit of the Holly,' lessons of charity and good-will are pleasantly inculcated. Ethel, the heroine of the story, becomes the restorer of peace and happiness to a domestic circle where folly and guilt had caused alienation and wretchedness. The tale is interesting and well told, and the book is prettily illustrated.

YOUNG readers will be delighted with the account of 'Holidays at the Cottage; or, a Visit to Aunt Susan'; and while entertained by the stories, they will be improved by the good sense and generous feeling that pervades the book. So far as the publishers are concerned, the volume is very neatly and tastefully got up.

'The Birthday Council,' by Mrs. Alarie Watts, is a book in the style of some of Miss Edgeworth's stories for young people, and if not so ingenious and fascinating in style, has more directly practical aims of usefulness than the works of that popular authoress. How young people may be actively useful as well as amiable and happy, it is the purpose of Mrs. Watts to show and her story to illustrate. Though written specially for the young, parents and other guardians of youth will find useful hints for guiding those under their charge to works of honourable, agreeable, and useful beneficence.

IN the story of 'Mary Matheson,' some of the duties and difficulties of life to which many young gentlewomen are exposed are cleverly represented. After early years spent in affluence, a reverse of fortune throws the heroine on her own resources, and she is engaged as a governess. What befel her in her new position forms the subject of the story, which tells of a true but disappointed attachment between Mary Matheson and the brother of her pupils. How their union was prevented, and how she afterwards proved her affection by caring for his orphan children, will touch the sympathy of the reader of the tale.

'THE Sufferings of Mr. Delteil' will, we fear, cause mischievous pleasure to naughty boys into whose hands the book may come. Schoolboys are much the same all the world over, but the peculiarities of juvenile Frenchmen have rarely been presented in English literature. Mr. Delteil is one of the masters in a college, as the public schools of the departments of France are called; and, in describing his duties and his trials, lively sketches of French school life are given, evidently by one familiar with the country, and with its educational usages. Other characters and incidents of a provincial town are introduced. The book contains amusing and lifelike sketches of persons and of customs little familiar to Englishmen, whose knowledge of life in France is confined to what

they have witnessed in the capital, or gathered from ordinary literature.

THE authoress of 'Nathalie' and 'Madeleine' has presented in 'Rachael Gray' a story of common life, said to be founded on facts; and certainly, in all its details, describing characters and circumstances of everyday life. Rachel Gray is a dressmaker in a quiet street in the suburbs of London, and the story describes her occupations and the fortunes and misfortunes of some of her humble neighbours. There is very little incident and no romance in the story, for the heroine at its close is still a toiling needlewoman and an old maid; but the merit of the book lies in its faithful descriptions of the occupations of the poor; and in 'Rachel Gray' is shown how piety, kindness, and industry may be nobly displayed in humble life, and diffuse cheerfulness and blessings in the sphere allotted by Providence. If those with larger means and wider opportunities oftener acted in the spirit of Rachel Gray, the evil and unhappiness in the world would be perceptibly lessened. The purpose and execution of this book deserve the highest commendation.

NOTICES.

The whole Evidence against the Claims of the Roman Church. By Sanderson Robins, M.A. Longman and Co.

THIS volume contains a masterly statement and learned discussion of the controversy with Rome, in so far as it relates to the Papal supremacy. The author justly observes that the ground of the great controversy with the Roman Church has shifted at different periods, in the days of Luther chiefly turning on questions of doctrine and discipline, and in later times the main point under discussion having been the claim to universal authority in behalf of the occupant of the chair of Saint Peter. Those who submit to the authority of the Bible have no difficulty on this subject, but in debate it is necessary to have recourse to historical testimony, and Romanists have found Protestants not always sufficiently prepared to meet them with the weapons which learning and argument supply. To furnish materials from literature and history as well as from Scripture on all the questions connected with this branch of the controversy, is the design of Mr. Robins in his elaborate and able treatise. Commencing with a statement of the argument from Scripture, the testimony of the ancient church is fully examined, and successive chapters are then devoted to the origin and progress of the Papal usurpation; the forgeries and corruption of documents; the failure of the succession in the Roman church; the want of unity in doctrine; the Council of Trent; and, lastly, the claim to infallibility. As an example of the learning and industry of the author in the examination of evidence, may be cited his discussion of the assertion of Saint Peter having ever been at Rome, which he shows to be very doubtful, and even if that rested on good historical proof, the mere fact of that apostle having been at Rome, and having died there, carries no such consequence as the transmission of monarchical power to future bishops. Cardinal Bellarmino admits that the right of the Popes must rest entirely on an express Divine command; an important assertion, from the ablest of all advocates for the supremacy, and one which is supported by still more doubtful evidence. In the whole of the questions discussed by Mr. Robins the authorities are referred to, and his book is a most useful manual for the student or the controversialist.

The Poetical Works of Lord Byron. A new edition. Vol. IV. John Murray. THE fourth volume of this handsome library edition of *The Poetical Works of Lord Byron* contains Manfred, Marino Faliero, Heaven and Earth, Sardanapalus, and The Two Foscari. None of these are among the best efforts of Byron, and

the popular voice has, in this respect, confirmed early critical judgments. In the notes to this edition are comprised extracts from the reviews and annotations in the periodical literature at the time of the publication of the poems. The remarks of Lord Jeffrey about two of the poems are most characteristic and expressive, showing at the same time that not those comments only which are flat-tering to Byron find place in this edition:—"Considered as poems," says Jeffrey, "we confess that Sardanapalus and The Two Foscari appear to us to be rather heavy, verbose, and inelegant—deficient in the passion and energy which belongs to Lord Byron's other writings—and still more in the richness of imagery, the originality of thought, and the sweetness of versification for which he used to be distinguished. They are for the most part solemn, prolix, and ostentatious—lengthened out by large preparations for catastrophes that never arrive, and tantalising us with slight specimens and glimpses of a higher interest scattered thinly up and down many weary pages of pompous declamation. Along with the concentrated pathos and home-struck sentiments of his former poetry, the noble author seems also—we cannot imagine why—to have discarded the spirited and melodious versification in which they were embodied. There are some sweet lines, and many of great weight and energy; but the general march of the verse is cumbrous and unmusical. Instead of the graceful familiarity and idiomatic melodies of Shakspeare, it is apt, too, to fall into clumsy prose, in its approaches to the easy and colloquial style; and, in the loftier passages, is occasionally deformed by low and common images, that harmonize but ill with the general solemnity of the diction."

Poems. By Ellen C——. Westerton. IN this little volume of poetry are some pieces of unusual merit, such as the following stanzas:—

"Friendship, Love, and Roses too,
The Spring-time shall again renew." —CARPENTER.
"Not so, not so, the Summer roses die,
They lay their beauty for a season by
To bloom again, as fragrant and as fair,
When the sweet breath of June doth woe come,
Wining the world to brightness and to bloom,
Then, then again the blossoms shall be there.
But to the heart, its one brief Summer o'er,
Returns that light, that sunshine never more;
No flowers their freshness o'er this ruin wave;
The winds have changed their music to a sigh,
There is no hue save twilight in the sky,
And the young grass is growing on the grave.
"Art thou so blest to love—beloved again?
Oh! spare the soul from the unresting pain
That shall avenge Love's plight, broken vow:
Death has no arrow, Fortune has no cloud,
That can thy life in desolation shroud
Like the dim shade on Falsehood's guilty brow.
"Be just, as the blue heavens that arch us all;
Be kind, as April showers to earth that fall;
Let spotless truth be throned on thy lips:
Let never doubt, deceit, unkindness come
With their dark faces to thy heart's bright home,
To chill its warmth—its glory to eclipse.
"Again, when storm and cloud have had their day,
Shall green leaves wave and meadow-paths be gay
With the fair forms of Flora's shining train:
But not thus lightly can affection's trust,
Cast down to earth and withered in the dust,
Win back the beauty of its youth again.
"Therefore, beware! Nor Winter's guardian snow,
Nor the Spring rains, nor Summer's sunny glow
Can give thee back the roses of the heart,
From ruined temple, from polluted shrine,
That erst their presence made almost divine,
If once, for ever, doth their smile depart."

Among the poems are some Christinas Carols and songs for the season of the year, cheerful, yet thoughtful, in their tone. If the writer is young, the book is one of good promise.

The Medicinal and Economic Properties of Vegetable Charcoal. By James Bird, M.R.C.S. Churchill.

The Sanitary Application of Charcoal. By J. Forbes Watson, A.M., M.D. Madden. BEIDES the medical and sanitary properties of charcoal, there are various subjects discussed in these treatises which will interest general readers. The uses of this substance in common life are more extensive and important than are

usually imagined. Its benefits are often experienced without the modes of its operation being considered. There is generally a basis for widespread popular prejudices and practices, and the consumption of charcoal internally, as well as its employment externally, in a variety of forms, is familiarly known. Every one has experienced the dietic benefits of charcoal in the form of toast and water, and we believe that the wholesomeness of the Englishman's beverage, porter or stout, is partly to be attributed to the high-dried or carbonized malt which gives the peculiar colour to the liquor. Charcoal has a remarkable power of absorbing gases, destroying what is deleterious, and promoting the formation of healthy compounds. Its use in purifying water is well known. The knowledge of this property has led scientific physicians to make experiments on its direct use as an internal remedy, and the results of the practice, as observed in France and in this country, are described by Mr. Bird, who has given much attention to the subject. Some very remarkable cases are given in his treatise, with directions for the use of the remedy in cases of dyspepsia and other internal complaints. Dr. Watson's paper on 'The Sanitary Application of Charcoal,' reprinted from the 'Journal of the Society of Arts,' contains important hints and suggestions on the economic uses of this substance. A charcoal air filter, on the principles explained by Dr. Watson, is in operation in some of the public buildings in London. The paper also contains valuable advices on the subject of ventilation.

SUMMARY.

A VOLUME of the *Transactions of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society* (Hamilton, Adams, and Co.) contains the report of the council, and record of the proceedings of the Society for 1855, and a selection of papers read before the Society since its formation in 1835. Among them are some articles of more general interest than are usually found in periodical and local publications of the class. In 'An Account of the Ancient Records of Leicester,' by William Kelly, the honorary secretary, many curious and remarkable extracts are given from the documents preserved in the muniments of the borough, which throw light on the former condition and customs of the place, and also illustrate many points of national history, institutions, and manners. There is a very good biography of the late Professor Macgillivray, of Aberdeen, by James Harley, with notices of his labours and writings, and a general sketch of his diligent studies as a naturalist, and his estimable character as a man. Papers on the 'Romantic Poems of Italy,' by William Palmer; and on 'Lady Macbeth,' with criticisms on the commentators and expositors of the play, by William Napier Reeves, will please literary readers. Archaeologists will find acceptable matter in the paper on 'Roman Leicester,' by J. F. Hollings. The volume is altogether most creditable to the Literary and Philosophical Society of Leicester, which appears from the report of its last year's proceedings to be in a prosperous condition. We trust that the present volume will be followed by others, and the plan of selecting papers and publishing at intervals we consider judicious as well as economical. Societies which make a point of publishing volumes of transactions regularly, are sometimes forced to make up the necessary bulk of matter with papers scarcely worth the expense of their being printed. For the members an annual report, with record of proceedings, and an abstract of papers, are always desirable. The example of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society might, in many cases, be usefully followed in issuing only an occasional volume of formal transactions, containing a selection of articles of special importance or of general interest.

A very good school *History of Ancient Greece* is published in Chambers's Educational Course (W. and R. Chambers). The results of the researches of historians, both on the Continent and in this country, are embodied in the work. Mr.

Grote's history is taken as the basis of the book, but without following implicitly either the political spirit or the opinions of that great work. His pleadings for democracy are checked by the views of Bishop Thirlwall, who takes the opposite side on some of the questions suggested by the facts and characters of the history. Preliminary dissertations on the geography, mythology, ethnology, religion, and institutions of ancient Greece, add to the value of this volume as an elementary educational manual, for which it is better fitted than any book of the kind at present in use. Another educational work, of a very superior and somewhat original character, is *An Elementary Atlas of History and Geography*, with maps arranged in chronological order, by the Rev. J. S. Brewer, M.A., Professor of English History and Literature in King's College, the maps compiled and engraved by Edward Weller, F.R.G.S. (Longman and Co.). The object of this work is to present to the student the condition of the world at successive epochs, from the commencement of the Christian era to the present time. The connexion of geography with history has been little regarded in education hitherto, and without maps of the kind now supplied in Professor Brewer's atlas the attempt could not well be made. The nature of the work will best appear from the list of the maps in their order:—
1. The Roman Empire in the Fourth Century.
2. Roman Britain.
3. The Invasion and Settlement of the Barbarians.
4. Saxon England.
5. Europe under the Carlovingians.
6. The Rise of the German Emperors.
7. The Crusades.
8. The Apogee of Medieval Europe.
9. The Eve of the Reformation.
10. The Age of Louis XIV.
11. Colonial Possessions.
12. The French Revolution.
13. Europe at the Present Time.
14. The Germanic Confederation.
15. English Counties.
16. The British Colonies.
17. The United Kingdom.

The letterpress accompanying each map contains a large amount of useful historical, descriptive, and statistical information. It is a most valuable contribution to educational literature.

A pamphlet on *The Formation of a National Party in Germany*, a necessity of the present crisis in Europe (Ridgway), translated from the German of Gustav Diezel, by Frederika Rowan, expresses views with which many readers in England will sympathize, but which can only be carried out by a greater unity of purpose and decision of action than the Germans seem capable of in these times. The design of Diezel's book is not revolutionary, neither does he cherish the vague notion of German unity, from which, after the events of 1848, there has been so complete a revulsion, but he proposes a more definite and practicable object, the formation of a national party in the German states not included in Prussia or Austria, by which the influence of the Russian party in Central Europe would be neutralized. The Russian party everywhere has organization, activity, and power, and the national feeling that resists this influence being without plan or guidance, has little political weight. The proposals of Gustav Diezel, for this new German confederation, deserve the attention of English politicians, as they have attracted considerable notice on the Continent.

In a book of *Devotional Verse for a Month*, and other brief pieces, by the Rev. Thomas Davis, M.A. (Hamilton, Adams, and Co.), pious sentiments are expressed in simple and appropriate strains.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Adams's (E.) Geographical Word Expositor, 18mo, cloth, 2s.
Alison's *Atlas to History of Europe*: People's Ed., £1 1s. 6d.
Barber's (M.A.B.) Poor Folks at Home, 18mo, cloth, 2s.
Corner's (Miss) *History of Scotland and Ireland*, 18vo, 6s.
Dodd's *Precce*, 1864, 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
Dreys's (G. L.) *Serious Studies*, crown 18vo, cloth, 9s.
Goodwin's (H.) *Hulsean Lectures*, 1855, 18vo, cloth, 9s.
Grose's (A. N.) *Memor*, crown 18vo, cloth, 6s.
Gurney's (J. H.) *Evening Recreations*, post 18vo, cloth, 5s.
Howitt's (T. H.) *Cousin William*, 18vo, boards, 1s. 6d.
Horace, Odes of, 18vo, cloth, Vol. 2, 3s. 6d.
Howitt's (Mary) *Library for the Young*, 1st & 2nd series, 6s. 6d.
Inside Sebastopol, 18vo, cloth, 12s. 6d.
Kimber's (T.) *Mathematical Course*, Svo, cloth, 2s.
Laura Gray, 3 vols., post 18vo, cloth, 41s. 6d.

Leonard and Dennis, a tale of the War, 18mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
London (The) *Medical Directory*, 1856, post 18vo, cloth, 8s. 6d.
Marsden's *History of the Christian Churches*, 2 vols., £1 8s.
Murray's (Miss) *United States*, &c., 2 vols., post 18vo, 16s.
Oliver and Boyd's *New Edinburgh Almanack*, 1856, 5s.
Our Children's Times, square 18mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Pinney's (J.) *Influence of Occupation upon Health*, 5s.
Ranking's *Half-Yearly Abstract*, p. 18vo, cloth, Vol. 22, 6s. 6d.
Robertson's *Sermons*, Vol. 1, 2nd edition, post 18vo, cloth, 9s.
Shakspeare's *Dramatic Works*, 12mo, cloth, Vol. 1, 6s.
Young's (W.) *Metropolitan Building Act*, 12mo, boards, 3s. 6d.

LITERARY RETROSPECT.

It was feared that the absorbing concerns of the war, and the pressure of political events, would prove detrimental to the interests of literature. The records of 1855, however, will bear favourable comparison with those of many previous years, if not in the number, certainly in the importance and value of new publications.

In the department of history, the appearance of the two volumes of Mr. Macaulay's 'England' would alone signalize the year. There are also the first two volumes of Mr. Prescott's 'History of Philip II.', and the concluding volume of Mr. Alison's 'History of Europe.' Among the historical works by writers less conspicuous, may be mentioned Gallenga's 'History of Piedmont,' Wrightson's 'History of Modern Italy,' and Creasy's 'History of the Ottoman Empire.' Dean Liddell's 'History of Rome,' and Mr. Lewis's 'Inquiry into the Credibility of Early Roman History,' have also to be named; and for the history of modern Europe interesting materials are published in the 'Correspondence of Napoleon with his Brother Joseph.'

To ecclesiastical history the most important contributions have been Dean Milman's 'History of Latin Christianity,' vols. 4, 5, and 6, completing the work; and Ullman's 'Reformers before the Reformation,' forming two volumes of Clark's (Edinburgh) 'Theological Library.'

The past year has been peculiarly rich in the department of biography. Among the works of this class are Sir David Brewster's 'Life of Sir Isaac Newton'; the 'Memoir of Dr. Thomas Young,' by Dean Peacock; the 'Memoirs of Sydney Smith,' by Lady Holland; the 'Life of Goethe,' by Lewes; the 'Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange and Andrew Lumisden,' by Dennis-toun; the continuation of the 'Memoirs of James Montgomery,' by Everett; the 'Memoir of Sheil,' by Macullagh; the first volume of the 'Life of Washington,' by Washington Irving; the 'Memoirs of Lady Blessington,' by Dr. Madden; the 'Life of Fielding,' by Lawrence; the 'Autobiography of James Silk Buckingham,' the 'Life of Etty,' by Gilchrist; the 'Memoirs of Lieutenant Bellot,' by Dr. Doran's 'Lives of the Queens of the House of Hanover'; Miss Freer's 'Life of Jeanne d'Albret,' and the 'Life of Arago,' by Humboldt, prefixed to the new edition of his works.

The year has also been rich in the department of voyages and travels, among which may be named Captain Sherard Osborne's 'Narrative of the Discovery of the North-west Passage'; 'The Last of the Arctic Voyages,' by Captain Sir Edward Belcher; Burton's 'Pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina'; Captain Charnier's 'Unsentimental Tour on the Continent'; the 'Tour of Paterfamilias'; 'Mountains and Molehills,' by Captain Marryatt; the 'Druses of Lebanon,' by G. W. Chasseaud; 'Five Years in Damascus,' by the Rev. G. R. Porter; 'The Wanderer in Arabia,' by Lowth; 'Eastern Experiences,' by Kennard; 'Modern Greece and the Greeks,' by M. Tolla; 'The Dead Sea and the New Route to India,' by Captain Allen, R.N.; 'Minnesota,' by Lawrence Oliphant; 'The Wabash,' by J. R. Beste; 'Eight Years' Wanders in Ceylon,' by S. W. Baker; 'Sporting Adventures in the New World,' by Campbell Hardy; 'Fur Hunters in the Far West,' by Ross; 'Two Years in Victoria,' by William Howitt; 'The Gold Regions of Australia,' by Wathen; and 'The Second Voyage Round the World,' by Madame Ida Pfleiffer. The 'Life and Travels of Hero-

dots,' by Wheeler, may also be classed with these works; and 'Whitelock's Journal of his Embassy to Sweden in the Time of the Commonwealth.'

The war with Russia has produced a literature of its own, uniting historical records with descriptions of the countries where the great events of the time are taking place. Among these works may be named 'Our Camp in Turkey, and the way to it,' by Mrs. Young; Mrs. Duberly's 'Account of Last Year's Campaign in the Crimea'; Major Hamley's 'Narrative of the Campaign'; General Klapka on 'The War in the East'; Captain Peard's 'Campaign in the Crimea'; 'Russia and the Russians,' by Lieutenant Cole; Duncan's 'Campaign with the Turks in Asia'; 'The Pet Yacht Cruise in the Baltic,' by the Rev. Mr. Hughes; Thorneby's 'Narrative of the Crimean Campaign'; the Rev. S. G. Osborne's 'Scutari and the Hospitals in the East'; and the volumes on the war, by Mr. Russell of 'The Times,' and Mr. Woods of the 'Morning Herald.'

Of poetical works there has been more than the usual number, some of them by writers of established reputation—as 'Maud,' by Tennyson; 'Hiawatha,' by Longfellow; 'The Mystic,' by Bailey; and 'Men and Women,' by Browning. Of prose works of fiction the usual variety has appeared, including new novels by most of the writers who are best known in this field of literature. We may name 'Mammon; or, the Hardships of an Heiress,' by Mrs. Gore; 'The Jealous Wife,' by Miss Pardoe; 'Next Door Neighbours,' by Mrs. Gascoigne; 'Display,' by Mrs. Maberly; 'Gertrude; or, Family Pride,' by Mrs. Trollope; 'Cross Purposes,' by Miss Sinclair; 'Simplicity and Fascination,' by Mrs. Beale; 'Philip Courtenay,' by Lord William Lennox; 'Percy Blake, or the Young Rifleman,' by Captain Rafter; 'Westward Ho!' by Kingsley; 'Rachel Gray,' by Miss Kavanagh; 'Zaidee,' by Mrs. Oliphant; 'The House of Elmore'; 'Doctor Antonio,' by the author of 'Lorenzo Benoni.' The commencement of the new serial, 'Little Dorrit,' by Dickens, has also been a notable event of the literary year.

Of miscellaneous works, the following are amongst the most conspicuous—Judge Haliburton's ('Sam Slick') 'Nature and Human Nature'; 'The Legal and Political Sketches' of Sheil and of Curran; 'The Old Court Suburb; or, Memorials of Kensington,' by Leigh Hunt; the 'Monarchs of the Main; or, Stories of the Buccaneers,' by Thornebury; 'Meditations in Exile,' by W. Smith O'Brien; 'My Exile,' by Alexander Herzen; 'Worlds beyond the Earth,' by Phillips; 'Constantine; or, the Last Days of an Empire,' by Captain Spencer; 'The Noctes Ambrosianae' of Professor Wilson; the 'Miscellaneous Works' of Thackeray; and the 'Contributions of Lord Brougham to the Edinburgh Review,' and the new edition of 'Addison,' by Bishop Hurd, in six volumes, the last two containing letters and other memorials of Addison, now first published by the editor, Mr. G. H. Bohn.

Among scientific works may be named the works of Dr. Young, edited by Dean Peacock; Arago's 'Meteorology and Astronomy,' edited by Professor Powell; Admiral W. H. Smyth, and Mr. R. Grant; 'The Fibrous Plants of India,' by Dr. Forbes Royle.

In art some valuable and beautifully illustrated works have appeared, including, 'The Handbook of Art in the Medieval Ages,' by Labarti; Kugler's 'Handbook to the Italian School of Painting,' edited by Sir C. Eastlake; and an illustrated 'Handbook of Architecture,' by James Fergusson.

The close of the year, as is usual, was the season for the appearance of a variety of illustrated works, such as have taken the place of the showy annuals of former times. There are still a few of the old annuals flourishing, as 'Heath's Book of Beauty,' and the 'Court Album'; but a superior class of publications, in point of literary value, has displaced most of the merely ornamental volumes formerly prepared as Christmas gift-books. On this occasion some works of classical merit appeared in beautiful editions, such as the 'Poems' of George Herbert, and Moore's 'Irish Melodies,' with nu-

merous other volumes, which have been so recently noticed that reference to them specially may here be dispensed with.

The year was marked by the death of several men distinguished in literature, science, and art, among whom will occur the names of Samuel Rogers, Miss Mitford; Robert Montgomery; James Silk Buckingham; Mr. Dennistoun, the biographer of Sir Robert Strange, and of the 'History of the Duke of Urbino'; Viscount Strangford, the translator of 'Camoens'; the Rev. Dr. Gilly, of Northam, the friend of the Waldenses; Archdeacon Julius Hare; the veteran geologists, Sir Henry De la Beche, and Mr. Greenough; Sir Henry Bishop, Sir Edward Parry, Count Krasinski, Mr. Bartlett, Dr. Philimore, Dr. Kitto, Lord Robertson, and others of lesser note, besides Joseph Hume, Sir Robert Harry Inglis, Sir Robert Adair, and other public men, whose names are associated with the historical literature of the country.

up by rival newspapers; when the case is decided, the chief magistrate has intimated his intention of placing a gravestone over the resting-place of the great musician. A monument has just been erected in the Minoriten Church in Vienna to the memory of Metastasio. It is the work of Lutardi, an Italian sculptor residing in Rome. The name of Metastasio is carved on the base; on one side the angel of death (meant to represent at the same time the genius of poetry) stands with inverted torch; on the other, Fame holds in her left hand the works of the poet, whilst, with her right, she places the trumpet to her mouth. On the urn are bas-reliefs of dying swans, and emblems of the poet, whilst higher up are larger reliefs, one representing the reception of Metastasio by the Emperor Charles the Sixth, under whose reign he filled the post of laureate; another, the poet in the apartment of Maria Theresa, who invites him to celebrate in song the birth of Joseph the Second; and a third, the death scene of Metastasio in the midst of his friends and patrons, amongst the former of whom we recognise the portrait of Mozart, then in his 26th year. These bas-reliefs are all very well executed. The statue, too, of the poet is very good; it is life size, represented sitting and writing. Metastasio, at the age of 81, was invited by Charles the Sixth to the Viennese court, where he remained till he died in 1782, having enjoyed successively the friendship of Charles the Sixth, Francis the First, Maria Theresa, and Joseph the Second; he came to Austria very poor, and left behind him 130,000 florins. The University of Göttingen has just lost one of its most valuable members in the person of Herr Hofrat Fuchs, the professor of Medicine; he appeared at the theatre apparently in his usual health, and having turned round to speak to some friends behind him, was in the act of taking off his cloak, when he fell forward and died immediately. Herr Fuchs was a man of world-wide reputation, and his loss will long be felt in Göttingen.

A grand festival was held in Munich on the 23rd of last month by the Knights of the Maximilian order, an order your readers will remember founded by the present King of Bavaria, in 1853, for art and science. On the present occasion, the members met to celebrate, at the same time, the birthday of the King and the anniversary of the foundation of their order.

From Rome, we learn that the famous Albani library is about to be brought to the hammer; it is one of the most celebrated collections of books in Europe. It was founded by Cardinal Nerli, in the early part of the seventeenth century, in his palace in the bend of the valley between the Quirinal, Esquiline, and Pincian hills. It then passed into the possession of the Albani family, and received such valuable accessions from the celebrated Cardinal Alessandro Albani, that he has been generally looked upon as the real founder of it. In 1798, many valuable manuscripts were stolen, these, however, were nearly all recovered in 1803. It has now become the property of the families Castel Barco, of Milan, and Guidi del Bagno, of Mantua. Ranke found the greatest part of the materials for his 'History of the Popes' here.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

An election for a correspondent of the Geological Section of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, in the room of the late Sir Henry de la Beche, has resulted in the nomination of M. Haidinger, by forty-one votes to four given to Professor Sedgwick, and one to M. Dumont.

The Rev. William Cureton, Canon of Westminster, author of the 'Corpus Ignatianum,' &c., has just been elected a member of the French Institute, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of the late Dr. Gaisford, Dean of Christchurch, Oxford.

A St. Petersburg letter says that three candidates have presented themselves for the presidency of the Academy of Sciences of that city, in the room of the late Count Ouvaroff,—namely, the Grand-Duchess Helen; M. Noraff, Minister of Public Instruction;

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and Baron de Korff, Director of the Imperial Public Library at St. Petersburg. The choice of a female to preside over a learned body is not unfrequently seen in Russia,—the Academy of Sciences itself was at one time presided over by the Princess Daschkaff, and at this moment the Grand-Duchess Mary is President of the Academy of Fine Arts. It is probable, therefore, that the Grand-Duchess Helen will be elected, especially as, in addition to her high rank, she possesses the reputation of being tolerably well versed in science.

The French Government has just determined on establishing not fewer than twelve meteorological observatories in Algeria,—namely, at Algiers, Milianah, Teniet el Haad, and Orléanville, in the province of Algiers; Oran, Tiaret, Tlemcen, and Sébdou, in that of Oran; and Bona, Constantina, Baboua, and Beskara, in that of Constantina. At the request of the government, the Academy of Sciences at Paris has drawn up a series of instructions as to the observations to be taken, and the time and manner of taking them, in these new establishments. The Academy is of opinion that, for the present, it will be prudent to limit the observations to—1. Temperature and distribution of heat; 2. Atmospheric pressure; 3. Humidity of the air; 4. Rain, snow, and hail; 5. Direction and intensity of the wind; and 6. The state of the sky, reserving observations on magnetism, electricity, &c., until a sufficiently numerous and experienced personnel shall have been formed. As to the time of taking the observations, the Academy desires that it shall not be merely every three hours during the day, as in most observatories, but that it shall be every hour, day and night. It also desires that the greatest exactitude possible shall be attained in taking and recording the observations. The Academy is of opinion that the taking of meteorological observations in Africa, the only part of the world in which they have heretofore been almost completely neglected, will be of great scientific importance. But it is said that instead of the twelve observatories proposed, five or six would be sufficient—three on the coast, at Algiers, Bona, and Oran, the remainder in the interior. In the course of the discussion to which the matter gave rise, it was stated that the tempest which caused such terrible disasters in the Black Sea last year, was felt, more or less, over the greater part of the continent of Europe, and that it was announced by telegraph to have reached Austria long before it got to Paris. This fact led to the remark that, when the system of electric telegraphs shall be more widely developed, and meteorological observatories shall be more numerous, it will be possible to announce at a great distance the approach of a storm, and so enable timely precautions against it to be taken.

The following is the probable list of lectures at the Royal Institution for the eight Friday evenings before Easter, commencing Jan. 25th:—Mr. Grove, ‘Inferences from the Negation of Perpetual Motion;’ Professor Tyndall ‘On the Disposition of Force in Paramagnetic and Diamagnetic Bodies;’ Professor Huxley ‘On Natural History as Knowledge, Discipline, and Power;’ Professor Rogers, (from the United States), ‘On the Geology and Physical Geography of North America;’ Professor Faraday (subject not yet determined); Professor Thomson ‘On the Origin and Transformations of Motive Power;’ Sir Charles Lyell ‘On the Successive Changes of the Temple of Serapis;’ and the Rev. John Barlow ‘On Aluminium.’

There is prospect at length of improvement in legal education. The reforms introduced into almost every other department of professional study, and the enlarged qualifications required for offices of public trust, could scarcely fail to call attention to the want of provision for the proper study of law and of jurisprudence. A commission was appointed to inquire into the arrangements of the Inns of courts, and their report has recently been published. The most important part of the report is that which recommends that the several inns of court, while retaining their internal arrangements and property as distinct societies, should be united to form a university, to regulate examinations, and

to confer degrees in law. The executive council of the university, it is proposed, is to be composed of representatives chosen partly by the benchers, and partly by the barristers of the inns of court, in proportions which would virtually give to the benchers the control of affairs. The report presents a detailed scheme for the constitution and government of the university, but it is needless to refer to proposals which have yet to be considered and sanctioned by the Crown or the legislature. The public discussion of the question of legal reform in any shape must be beneficial, as this is the department of the State of all others in which abuses and corruptions seem chronic and inveterate. The proposals of the Commissioners relating to courses of legal study, competitive examinations, the conferring of degrees, and other arrangements for ensuring improved education, are on the whole conceived in a liberal and enlightened spirit, and would tend greatly to raise the standard of legal education, and also indirectly render amendment in the national laws and institutions more hopeful than under the existing system of routine and dulness. With the exception of a few men of independent mind and native genius, who would have become great in any position of life, and as lawyers would have risen to eminence under any system of education, the members of the profession are generally illiberal, and opposed to any amendment of the law. When an enlarged study has been introduced, there will be hope of some of the reproach now attaching to many parts of our legal institutions being removed.

removed.

Mr. Robert Young, of Edinburgh, a learned oriental scholar, some of whose works we have occasionally noticed ('L. G.' 1852, p. 317; 1854, p. 174), has been sent to superintend the mission press in Surat, in connexion with the Irish Presbyterian Church. He is entirely a self-taught scholar, having been a journeyman printer until within the last few years, when he became a master printer, and bookseller and publisher of his own works. In the East his acquirements will be turned to useful account, while he will have an opportunity of extending his knowledge of languages in ways from which we trust that literature may receive benefit. The missionary establishments in the East have on various occasions rendered good service to literature, besides the sacred purposes for which they are directly maintained. Through the Serampore press, under the superintendence of Dr. Cary, Dr. Marshman, and other oriental scholars, the Scriptures were first introduced into several countries of the East in the native tongues, at a time when the East India Company prevented any operations for the diffusion of knowledge, as dangerous to the supremacy of Europeans in the East. Now there is a free press all over India, and the Government colleges and missionary schools afford an education to the natives as complete as can be obtained in the best institutions in Europe.

Among recent deaths to be noticed is that of Mr. Josiah Conder, long the editor of the 'Eclectic Review,' and author of many volumes in various departments of literature. Latterly he was one of the editors and proprietors of the 'Patriot' newspaper, the political organ of the Nonconformists. In conducting the 'Eclectic Review' from 1814 to 1837, Mr. Conder associated with him, as contributors, some of the most distinguished writers of the day, among whom were Robert Hall, John Foster, James Montgomery, Dr. Chalmers, and Isaac Taylor. Mr. Conder was editor of the well-known series of books published by Tegg, 'The Modern Traveller,' in thirty-three volumes. The volumes on 'Italy' were written by the editor. He also wrote a 'Dictionary of Ancient and Modern Geography,' a useful compilation. Mr. Conder had considerable poetical taste, and he has written some hymns and other pieces, which are generally found in collections of devotional poetry. He died in his 67th year. His father, Mr. Thomas Conder, was a publisher, and his grandfather was Dr. John Conder, President of Homerton College, one of the predecessors of Dr. Pye Smith.

bye-word and a disgrace, in connexion with the abuse of educational charities. The benevolent and generous purposes of its founder have gradually been thwarted, and the endowments intended for the advancement of education, as well as the relief of poverty, have been turned into comfortable perquisites for other classes than those contemplated by honest Edward Alleyn in the days of Queen Elizabeth. The founder desired that poor scholars from the parishes of St. Botolph, St. Saviour's, St. Luke's, and St. Giles's, should be sent to the Universities, and left funds sufficient for the purpose. Since 1770 not one scholar has been sent up to Oxford or Cambridge. The charitable part of the bequest has also been sorely abused. There is hope now of a better state of things being inaugurated. The endowment, originally £800^{l.}, is now worth more than ten times that sum, and could be easily increased still more in value. A scheme, proposed by the Charity Commissioners, if carried into effect, will provide for the better management and administration of the funds, and promote the educational objects of the founder, by the establishment of good schools, with exhibitions to the Universities. It is proposed that there shall be two schools, an upper or classical, and a lower or English grammar school. As to the gallery of pictures, the scheme leaves to the Governors of the College a wise discretion for their proper custody "at Dulwich or elsewhere," with the sanction of the President of the Royal Academy. Their ultimate place of custody and of exhibition ought certainly to be the New National Gallery, till the completion of which they remain in the present gallery.

In the last sitting of the Academy of Sciences of Paris, Prince Bonaparte gave an account of a small but curious collection of birds of the Marquesas Isles, sent to him by M. Jardin, a civil employé of the French navy, and the author of some scientific works. The most remarkable thing in it was, said the Prince, a peculiar sort of large pigeon, provided with a singular organ at the basis of the beak. The natives, it appears, call the bird *Upe*, and the Prince, as a mark of respect for Professor Serres, the eminent anatomist and physiologist, proposes to name it *Serresius galacteus*. In the same sitting Mr. Gould caused to be presented a coloured design of the humming bird which he has named *Eugenia imperatrix*.

The Hulsean prize for the present year has been divided between William Ayer, B.A., Caius College, and William Jennings Rees, B.A., St. John's College, equal. The subject was 'The Influence of Christianity upon the Languages of Modern Europe.' For the Essay of 1856, the subject is, 'The Benefit of the Establishment, and of the Overthrow of Monastic Institutions.' We scarcely see how this topic comes directly or indirectly under the category of the evidences of the Christian religion, for illustrating which the Hulsean Fund was bequeathed.

The number of London literary periodicals has been increased greatly of late, and the present year has seen the commencement of three new magazines—‘The Monthly Review of Literature, Science, and Art,’ published by Mr. Mitchell; ‘The Idler,’ by Mr. Hardwicke, and ‘The Train,’ by Messrs. Groombridge and Co. In the first numbers of all these periodicals there are clever and entertaining articles; but we doubt whether there is room for so many new magazines, so similar in their scope and matter, even though some of the smartest light *littérateurs* of the day appear as contributors.

The Mint of Paris is busily engaged in coining a number of gold and silver medals to be given to the members of the Imperial Commission, and of the juries of the late Universal Exhibition. The gentlemen of the Imperial Commission are to receive the large gold medal; all the presidents of juries are to receive two small gold and two silver medals; and jurymen are to have two medals in silver.

Mr. John Forster, of 'The Examiner,' has been appointed Secretary to the Commissioners of Lunacy. The salary is 800*l.* a-year. Mr. Proctor (Barry Cornwall) is one of the Commissioners.

M. Sturm, an eminent French mathematician, has lately died.

Captain Gleig, R.A., son of the Chaplain-General of the Forces, is appointed Inspector-General of Military Schools.

Madame Tarbé des Sablons, of Paris, author of several religious works which are highly esteemed, died a few days ago.

M. Claude Barnard, the French physiologist, has been elected a professor of the College de France, in the room of the late Dr. Magendie.

M. Steuben, a French artist of some note, but who resided the greater part of his life in Russia, has just died at Paris. His principal works are—*Napoleon reading on a sofa with his infant son sleeping by his side*—a painting rendered popular by engraving; *Napoleon's return from the Isle of Elba*; *Death of Napoleon at St. Helena*; *Peter the Great saved by his mother*; *The Youth of Milton*; *Esmeralda and Quasimodo*; and *Esmeralda teaching her goat*.

The Belgium journals say that a manuscript copy of the 'Treatise on Painting,' by Leonardo da Vinci, with original designs by Poussin, was recently sold in an auction at Brussels for a very small sum, neither seller nor buyer having any idea of its value; but that it was eagerly sought out by an agent of the Russian government, purchased, and despatched to St. Petersburg.

The Artists' and Amateurs' Conversazioni are arranged to be held this season at Willis's Rooms on the following Thursday evenings:—Jan. 24th, Feb. 21st, March 13th, and April 17th.

The Third Annual Exhibition of the Photographic Society opens on Monday, at the Water-Colour Gallery in Pall Mall East.

Meyerbeer's *Etoile du Nord* has been performed at Vienna with great success, and the composer, who was present, was frequently called before the house. At Brussels Madame Albini has been performing in *La Favorita*. Verdi's *Il Trovatore* has been performed at Athens. Madame Lagrange and Madame Nantier Didié have appeared in New York in *La Semiramide di Rossini*.

At Drury Lane the pantomime is prefaced by a new comic sketch *The Great Gun-Trick*, in which Mr. C. Mathews, 'the original wizard of the Lyceum,' cleverly takes off the performances of the Wizard of the North. The spirited lessee, Mr. E. T. Smith, has brought before the public the statement of his grievances in regard to the withdrawal of the royal patronage to the house. In reply to an application for the renewal of the renting of the royal box, Colonel Phipps wrote that it is not her Majesty's intention to add to the number of the theatres at which she has private boxes. Mr. Smith is said to have retaliated by refusing to allow Mr. C. Mathews and other members of his company to perform at Windsor this season, on the ground of the loss that he would thereby sustain, without any compensation. The case has probably never been represented to her Majesty; and, whether it has or not, Mr. Smith can scarcely be blamed for the independence he has shown in the matter. His exertions to please the public are duly appreciated, and are meeting with deserved encouragement.

Mr. Webster is about to rebuild the Adelphi Theatre, having purchased the freehold of the house and of property adjoining. He is going to issue a limited number of debentures, secured on the freehold, having guaranteed interest of 5 per cent., and entitling each holder to a transferable free admission to every performance. The plan of the proprietor is spirited and judicious, and there is little doubt of his being able to carry it out successfully. The theatre sustains its popularity in the particular line of entertainment for which it has long been celebrated, and the present company is a most efficient one. Mr. Wright is in great vigour in his peculiar style of low humour, and the Christmas piece is attractive, though the literary part of the entertainment is not what might have been expected from Mr. Mark Lemon. Madame Celeste, Miss Wyndham, and a clever clown, carry the piece through with spirit. A new comic drama, *Urgent Private Affairs*, is to be produced on Monday.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

GEOLICAL. — Dec. 5th.—W. J. Hamilton, Esq., President, in the chair. Henry Conybeare, Esq., John Lubbock, Esq., and R. H. Jarvis, Esq., were elected Fellows. The following communications were read:—1. 'On the Tilestones, or Downton Sandstones, in the neighbourhood of Kington, and their contents,' by R. W. Banks, Esq. Communicated by Sir R. I. Murchison, F.R.S. In the Bradnor Quarry near Kington, on the borders of Radnorshire and Herefordshire, the Tilestones and Downton Sandstone are seen to overlie the Ludlow rock in the following descending order:—1, thin tilestone; 2, wall-stone, twelve feet thick, unfossiliferous; 3, mudstone, three to six inches, coloured grey by the intermixture of vegetable matter, and containing fragments of *Pterygotus*, and other crustacean remains, together with fossil allied to *Cephalaspis Lyelli* and *C. Lewisii* (Agas.); 4, Downton sandstone, three to four feet, with *Lingula cornuta*, *Trochushelicites*, *Pterygotus*, and *Cephalaspis*-like fossils as above; 5, another grey mudstone, similar in character and contents to No. 3; 6, yellow sandstone and flagstone, four feet, with the *Cephalaspis*-like fossils, *Pterygotus*, *Leptocheles*, and *Trochus helicites*; 7, Ludlow rock. Another section in the neighbourhood exhibits thin shaly beds of tilestone, with *Lingula cornuta*, underlaid by layers of flattened *Orthonota amygdalina* and *Trochus helicites*, which rest on the equivalent of the Ludlow bone-bed, here about two or three inches thick, and containing *Orthoceras gregarium*, *O. politum*, *Goniophora cymbiformis*, *Orthonota amygdalina*, *Orbicula rugata*, *Holopella*, *Chonetes lata*, *Cornulites serpularius*, *Cucullites antiqua*, *Modiolopsis lavis*, *Rhynchonella*, *Bellerophon carinatus*, *Leptocheles*, *Oncus tenuistrigatus*, *Sphagodus*, and *Serpulites*. The organic remains of these tilestone, sandstone, and mudstone beds were illustrated by numerous highly-finished drawings by the author; and these, together with his descriptive notes, indicated the existence of one or more hitherto unknown or little understood forms of crustacean life, probably of the *Eurypteridae* group, and elucidated several important characters in the carapace and appendages of the *Pterygotus*; with regard to which genus, Mr. Banks finds reason to differ from the generally received opinion that it was allied to *Limulus* and the *Pecipoda*. Mr. Banks's specimens of the fossils resembling *Cephalaspis Lyelli* and *C. Lewisii* offer considerable evidence towards invalidating the ichthyic relationship of these fossils, and placing them amongst the *Crustacea*. In conclusion,—from the absence of the numerous *Mollusca* characteristic of the Ludlow rocks, and from the presence of *Crustacea* that have not been found in the Ludlow beds, and especially the abundance of the *Pterygotus*, so characteristic of the Middle Old Red of Scotland,—the author is inclined to separate these Downton or Tilestone beds from the Upper Ludlow Rocks, and class them (as Sir Roderick Murchison, previously to his later remarks on the subject, originally arranged them) as the bottom-beds of the Old Red Sandstone. 2. 'On the last Elevation of the Alps, with notices of the Heights at which the Sea has left traces of its action on their sides.' By Daniel Sharpe, Esq., F.R.S. The object of this paper is to show that after the Alps had assumed their present form, the whole region was submerged below the sea, and stood 9000 feet lower than at present; and that it then rose out of the sea by a succession of unequal steps, separated by long intervals of time, during which the waves produced impressions on the sides of the Alps which are still visible. These effects are traced out under three heads: 1st. The erosion of the sides of the mountains, producing rounded forms which extend up to definite lines, above which the mountains rise into rugged peaks, in striking contrast with the smoother forms below. This change of form had been observed by Hugi, who referred it to different composition of the rocks; by Agassiz and Desor, who, seeing that Hugi's view was incorrect, explained it by the action of moving ice, to which they arbitrarily assigned a definite upper limit; and lastly by Professor J.

Forbes, who has pointed out similar phenomena in Norway at 1500 or 2000 feet elevation. Mr. Sharpe shows that throughout Switzerland these lines of erosion occur at three definite levels of 4800, 7500, and 9000 English feet above the sea, and he argues that no action but that of water could have produced a uniformity of level over so large an area, and that it required a long period of time to have formed such deep indentations of the mountain sides. 2nd. The sudden change of steepness which occurs at the head of every Alpine valley is assumed to be due to the excavating action of water, standing for a long period at that height: and a table is given of the elevation above the sea of the heads of between forty and fifty valleys, at various altitudes, which shows a correspondence of level between valleys on the opposite sides of the Alps, and between the excavation of several valleys and the lines of erosion at 4800 and 7500 feet; while the ice and snow in the higher valleys prevent a comparison with the highest line at 9000 feet. 3rd. The terraces of alluvium in the valleys are considered, in accordance with the opinion of Mr. Darwin, Mr. Yates, and others, to have been formed by detritus carried down into water standing at the level of the head of the terrace. The elevation of many of these terraces is given, and a correspondence is shown of the height above the sea of terraces in valleys which have no connexion with one another, and of terraces in some valleys with the heads of other valleys. All these effects might be produced by a sea surrounding the Alps, and cannot be otherwise explained; and the level of this sea being assumed to have been constant, the Alps must have been rising out of the waters while these operations were going on. The period of this, their last elevation, is stated to have been after the Tertiary epoch; and a great part of the vast accumulations of sand, gravel, and rounded blocks which are seen in the valleys of the Alps and covering the lowlands of Switzerland are considered to have been formed by the waves beating against the mountains during their elevation. Lastly, referring to the angular erratic blocks on the sides of the Jura, &c., the author points out that he removes the only serious difficulty opposed to the views of those who have supposed them to have been transported by floating ice, by showing that the levels at which those blocks are found were below the sea for a long period at the epoch of their removal.

CIVIL ENGINEERS. — Dec. 18th.—Annual General Meeting.—James Simpson, Esq., President, in the chair. The report of the Council for the past Session was read, and the meeting proceeded to the Election of the President, Vice-Presidents, and other Members and Associates of the Council for the ensuing year, after which the medals and premiums awarded for papers were presented. The depressing influence of political events upon works of Civil enterprise was noticed; as were the excellent services of the Military Members, in their own peculiar sphere,—of the Civil Engineers in the Army-Works Corps,—in the organization and construction of the Hospital of Rankoi,—and in the performance of numerous other duties, whereby it was admitted, that a recurrence of the disasters of the last winter would in all probability be effectively provided against. The Great International Exhibition of Products of Industry, held at Paris, was commented upon at some length; and was admitted to have been in some respects more interesting than that of London in 1851; there were better displays from the colonies; the machinery and wrought metals of the Continent generally, and the agricultural implements and machinery of France in particular, exhibited great progress, and the foreign machines for textile fabrics showed more attention to accuracy of fitting, and considerable advance in mechanical skill. These features were more apparent, in consequence of the inadequate manner in which many important branches of British industry were represented; for instance, there were only two English locomotives among the twenty railway engines exhibited,—

fourteen of which, however, bordered on the system introduced by Mr. Crampton. The models of the great works of civil engineering were, with few exceptions, exhibited only by the Ministry of Public Works of France, and by Members of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and a well-merited tribute was paid to the excellent and liberal spirit which animated the Fourteenth Class, composed almost entirely of French engineers, by whom the only two Grand Prizes of Honour were recommended to be awarded to Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Rendell, whilst the decoration of the Legion of Honour had been requested for Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Brunel, and a large number of Prizes of Honour, and of Medals of the first and second classes, and honourable mention had been awarded to other members and associates of the Institution. Feeling the importance of the occasion, the Council had not hesitated to deprive the Institution, even for an inconveniently long period, of the services of Mr. Manby, the Secretary, in order to his proceeding to Paris to fill the post of Vice-President of the XIVth Class (Civil Constructions), as soon as it was found that other members who had been appointed to the Jury could not attend, and the manner in which the duties had been performed was noticed approvingly. A short sketch was given of the principal works commenced, completed, or having made considerable progress during the past year, in Great Britain, on the Continent, in India, in the United States of America, and in the Colonies. A historical notice of the various attempts to obtain the adoption of a plan for the sewerage of the metropolis, showed that since the year 1847, there had been created five Commissions, all armed with powers to decide upon and to raise money for the execution of some comprehensive scheme; but that constant impediments had been opposed to this essential work, and even up to the last moment the valuable time of the Commissioners had been frittered away in useless and personal discussions upon crude theories, instead of devoting the energies and good sense of the Commissioners to devising means for executing plans which had received the approbation of the first engineering talent of the day. It was hoped, that the good sense and business habits of the newly-appointed representative Commission would put an end to this state of things, and that this work, so important to the sanitary state of the metropolis, would be forthwith proceeded with. The principal papers read during the session were noticed and succinctly analysed, dwelling more particularly upon those for which Telford medals had been awarded to Messrs. J. Barton, E. E. Allen, R. A. Robinson, and J. Phillips, and Council premiums of books to Messrs. J. Leslie, P. W. Barlow, J. Brunlees, F. Braithwaite, G. J. Munday, and L. E. Fletcher. The presents of books, maps, &c., made to the Society, were mentioned, and thanks were offered to the donors. The deceases of members were few, as compared to those announced at the last Annual General Meeting—they were Rear-Admiral Sir William Parry,—Honorary Member; Lieut.-Colonel John Henderson, R. E.; Messrs. John Brodgen, jun.; Alexander Comrie, Wyndham Harding, and Andrew Liddell,—Associates; and Charles Denroche,—Graduate. Memoirs of these deceased members of all classes were ordered to be printed in the Appendix to the Annual Report. The resignations of ten members, associates, and graduates, were also announced. The statement of the receipts and expenditure of the past year showed, that the funds had, at last, reached the point to which it had been the object of the Council to bring them;—that there was an available balance sufficient for the annual publication of a volume containing the minutes of proceedings of the current session, and with any other funds that might be furnished, it was proposed to bring up the arrears of publication; the first part of Volume XIV. for the session 1854-55 had been issued, and with it a statement of the subscription to the Publication Fund, in the hope that by thus directing attention to the subject, those members who had not hitherto contributed would be induced

to do so. It was announced, that the second and concluding part of Volume XIV. was partially in type, and would be issued by the month of March; that in accordance with the instructions of the Council the papers read during the present session were already printed, and that the complete volume would be in the hands of the members as soon as was practicable after the end of the session, and the arrears were ordered to be printed with all speed, giving the discussions in those volumes in a more succinct form. It was also stated, that in order to facilitate this arrangement, the President had taken upon himself the entire expenses of the Annual Conversazione. The thanks of the Institution were unanimously voted to the President, for his liberality, and his attention to the duties of his post, to the Vice-Presidents and other Members and Associates of Council, for their support of the President and their constant attendance; as also to the Auditors, the Scrutineers of the Ballot, and to the Secretary, for their several services. The following gentlemen were elected to fill the several offices in the Council for the ensuing year:— Robert Stephenson, M.P., President; G. P. Bidder, I. K. Brunel, J. Hawkshaw, and J. Locke, M.P., Vice-Presidents; W. G. Armstrong, J. E. Errington, J. Fowler, C. H. Gregory, T. Hawksley, J. R. M'Clean, J. Penn, J. S. Russell, J. Whitchurch, and N. Wood, members; and W. Piper and G. F. White, associates.

INSTITUT OF ACTUARIES.—Dec. 31st.—C. Jellicoe, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair. E. F. Leeks, Esq., was elected an Official Associate, and four gentlemen were elected Associates. Mr. Laundy read a paper ‘On a New Method of finding the Product of Two Factors by means of the Addition and Subtraction of Natural Numbers.’ It occurred to the writer some months ago, that tables based upon the formula

$$ab - \left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{a-b}{2}\right)^2$$

would be of use in actuarial and other calculations. After a trial on a small scale, he constructed, for his own use, a series of tables of the fourth parts of the squares of all integral numbers from 1 to 100,000. He explained, at some length, the methods used in calculating the tables, each quantity being deduced from that preceding it by a simple operation in addition; it being easy at any point to test the correctness of the table. The method of using the tables to find the product of two factors, consisting of not more than five digits each, is as follows:—“Find the quantities in the tables corresponding respectively to the sum and difference of the factors; the difference of these quantities is the product required.” Thus, if it be required to find the product of 53,684 and 45,678. The sum of these two numbers is 99,362, their difference is 8006. Opposite to 99,362 in the table stands 2,468,201,761, opposite to 8006 stands 16,024,009; the difference between these numbers, 2,452,177,752, is the product required, which is the exact value of the product; that found by logarithms being 2,452,177,900, of which the last three figures are incorrect. If either or both of the factors contain six digits, or more, a modification of the above method is necessary, but practically the tables will not be of much use when the number of digits in each factor is more than six. In the conversation which followed the reading of this paper, it appeared to be the general opinion that the tables would be of very great use in actuarial and other calculations, both as a means of obtaining results to a greater degree of accuracy than by logarithms, and also as a check on results obtained by logarithms.

ANTIQUARIES.—Dec. 20th.—J. Hunter, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Sir D. Sibbald Scott, Bart., was elected Fellow. Mr. William Salt presented to the Society a volume containing a number of broadsides and royal proclamations of the reign of Charles the First, and the period of the Commonwealth, comprising several articles of the greatest

rarity. An especial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Salt for his valuable donation, which renders the Society's collection of proclamations more perfect than any other in the kingdom. The Rev. Thomas Hugo exhibited three pilgrims' signs, in lead, found in the bed of the Thames, with the effigies of St. Thomas à Becket and St. Mary of Walsingham. The Secretary stated that having seen in ‘The Times’ in November last, an account of excavations promoted by Lieut.-Colonel Munroe, of the thirty-ninth regiment, among some ancient ruins near Sebastopol, he had written to that gentleman, who had kindly and promptly replied to his inquiries. Colonel Munroe's letter was accompanied by a plan of the excavations, in the course of which the walls of two buildings—one circular, the other square—were brought to light. The works were proceeding, and a further account was promised. Many coins, a statuette in terra cotta, a beautiful bas-relief, and pottery, have been discovered. Some of the coins were of Pantaceum (Kertch) and the Chersonesus. Mr. G. Daniel communicated an account of the discovery of charred timber in the bogs of Chobham Common, which he was inclined to assign to the period of Caesar's invasion of Britain. This took place, as every reader of the ‘Commentaries’ well knows, in the autumn, and the supposition that the traces of extensive fires, indicated by this charred wood, were the result of the burning of the British towns by the Roman legions, appears to be warranted by the fact that hazel-nuts, partially consumed by fire, are found with the charred trunks of timber-trees. The Society then adjourned over the Christmas holidays, to Thursday, January 10th.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN.—Dec. 11th.—Dr. W. Camps in the chair. Mr. E. Clibborn, of the Royal Irish Academy, transmitted copies of an Essay on the Identity of Said with Salatis, &c., calling the attention of the Society in connexion with the proposed opening of a Pelusiac canal, to the inferences drawn by him (Mr. Clibborn), that the rise of the Jewish State in political power and wealth grew out of the kings of Jerusalem being also kings of Pelusium. Dr. Benisch supported, by many curious and ingenious arguments, the identity of the citron used in the Jewish ceremonial with the object held in the hand by many of the Assyrian deities, and generally supposed to be a fine cone. Mr. Ainsworth, with the aid of Captain Felix Jones's newly-published maps of Assyria, Mosul, and Nimrud, described the local features of the country—it's mountains, rivers, and plains—their geological features—the numerous tells, the discoveries made in them by archeological exploration, more especially at Koyunjik, Khorsabad, Nimrud, Sherif-Khan, Karamlis, &c. The question of the magnitude of the city of Nineveh, as described by the prophet Jonah and the historian Diodorus Siculus, was afterwards discussed, as compared with what can be traced in modern times; as were also the questions of the unity or independence of the different cities met with on the plains of Assyria; the different character that belonged to a city in an early state of society to what is presented in the present day; the different views entertained with regard to the four primeval cities, Nineveh, Rehoboth, Calah, and Resen; the assumed succession of Nineveh's; and the evidences derived from progressive archeological exploration and the decipherment of Assyrian inscriptions.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.—Entomological, 8 p.m.
 Tuesday.—Medical and Chirurgical, 8 p.m.
 —Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(The Address of Robert Stephenson, Esq., M.P., President, on taking the chair. And if time permits—On the Causes of the Explosions in Steam Boilers. By R. K. Hall, U.S. America.)
 —Syro-Egyptian, 7½ p.m.—(On the Sarcophagi of Egypt. By the Rev. Dr. Hewlett.)
 —Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Professor Faraday on the Common Metals.)
 —Zoological, 9 p.m.
 —Architectural Exhibition, 8 p.m.—(James Ferguson, Esq., on Ancient Assyrian Architecture.)

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- Wednesday.**—Graphic, 8 p.m.
—Literary Fund, 3 p.m.
—R.S. of Literature, 8 p.m.
—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—**Extraordinary.**—(Mr. J. K. Blackwell on the Present Position of the Iron Industry of Great Britain, with Reference to that of other Countries. Part II.)
—Geological, 8 p.m.—(I. On the Physical Geography of the Tertiary Estuary of the Isle of Wight. By H. C. Sorby, Esq., F.G.S. 2. On the Permian Rocks of the South of Scotland. By E. W. Binney, Esq., F.G.S.)
—British Archaeological, 8 p.m.—(1. Sir Gardner Wilkinson on Etruscan Vases. 2. Mr. Syer Cumming on the History of Keys.)
- Thursday.**—Royal, 8 p.m.
—Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
—Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(Professor Cockerell on Architecture.)
- Friday.**—Astronomical, 8 p.m.
—Philological, 8 p.m.
- Saturday.**—Medical, 8 p.m.

VARIETIES.

Dr. Kane's Arctic Explorations.—The publishers of this interesting narrative, Messrs. Childs and Peterson, of Philadelphia, announce that it is already in a forward state, and will be ready for delivery early in the new year. Dr. Kane's time has been incessantly devoted to its preparation since his return home, and from the labour bestowed on it, both by the distinguished author and the artists whom he has employed in the work of illustration, there is no doubt that it will, in all respects, fulfil the expectations formed of it. The work will be published in two volumes 8vo., and will be embellished with upwards of 300 engravings, a large proportion of which will be on steel. The drawings are all being prepared under the direction of Mr. James Hamilton, who has devoted a good deal of time to the illustration of Arctic subjects, in conjunction with Dr. Kane. Most of the original sketches are from the pencil of the doctor himself, and will therefore possess all the interest of actuality. No work that has as yet been published on the subject of Arctic explorations has created half the interest which this narrative is likely to excite.—*New York Herald*.

Antiquities.—Perhaps there is no city in the world that abounds more with "bright gleams of the past" than Brussels. We do not mean in its churches, or cathedrals, or its splendid Place, where every building is a gem, but in nooks and corners, and out-of-the-way places, where nobody would ever think of looking for them. It is this that makes a walk through the Old Town delightful to the connoisseur. In our peregrinations, we stumbled the other day on a "shop" in the Rue du Musée, and, just to save appearances, asked for a watch-stand. We hardly wanted the "article," but it was a motive, and we guessed it would procure us a sight of the treasures which we had a suspicion lurked within. And true enough it was so; in the house itself there were a few good things, but, the owner taking down a key, we accompanied him across the road, to what he called his magasin. This was a large sized house, and filled from top to bottom, and, literally, *de la cave au grenier*, with "antique enamels, embossed goblets, Moorish arabesques, Saracen swords, and Etrurian vases," clocks, jewels, and costly tapestries. The carved wood too is of every character and epoch, from Agostino down to Donatello and Ghiberti, from the early Medieval periods to the Renaissance, and never in our lives did we feel so much envy as when looking on a minutely elaborate "bit," called, by the proprietor, *un autel de chambre*. We profess to little knowledge in pictures, though we doubt not all M. Delhougne showed us were, as he says, "originals"; but, taken as a whole—pictures, tapestry, sculpture, and crockery—we have seldom had so great a treat, and although we did find the watch-case, of which scores were kicking about the granary, yet we do not repeat it, for we got a little gem, a resting place for the eye for many a day, and we got it, when compared with prices we have been accustomed to, for a trifle.—*Brussels Herald*.

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